METRO / A19

Actors Piolo, Sam file P12-M libel suit vs Lolit Solis for reporting they are gay

BUSINESS / B1

Balance-of-payments surplus in Jan.-Oct. hits all-time high $7.85B

NEWS / A2

Raul Gonzalez returns as DOJ secretary after kidney transplant

WORLD / A21

2 Koreas reach reconciliation deal with cross-border trains

SC chief bewails silence on killing of journalists

By Leila B. Salaverria

SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO Puno has lamented the silence that surrounds the killing of journalists and the slow resolution of the cases.

Since 2001, Puno said 53 Filipino journalists have been killed in the line of duty.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, November 17, 2007 | 44 | 12 sections | Vol. 23 | No. 342 | P18 | www.inquirer.net

Web killing men's mags; women's mags thriving

SAN FRANCISCO—LEADing European publishers are scrambling to borrow a trick or two from American magazines and some have been for years—the Web fuels magazines in print.

'Solved but not closed'

Salapuddin admits knowing suspects but denies hand in blast

By Alexis Pope
and Norman Bordadora

THE NATIONAL POLICE yesterday declared the Batasan bombing case "solved but not closed" with the killing of three alleged Abu Sayyaf members but said they had yet to pinpoint who the mastermind was.

At the same time, former Deputy Speaker Eduardo Ong Jr. Garry Salapuddin admitted knowing two of the three supposed Abu Sayyaf members gunned down by the police in a raid in Pasong, Quezon City, the other day but Salapuddin denied involvement in the Batasan attack in which his staunch political rival, Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar, was killed.

Salapuddin said he was anxious to prove his innocence because his two state relatives of Akbar would look the close congressman's political opponents in the bombing.

"I strongly deny any involvement in the Batasan bomb explosion," Salapuddin told the INQUIRER.

The chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), Director Geary Barias said the Batasan case was "solved but not closed."

"We now have a better understanding of what happened there and the possible motives of the attack. But we don't know yet what is the participation of the perpetrators mentioned," Barias said.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Avelino Razon said in press statement since Salapuddin was still not considered a suspect.

Razon noted Salapuddin's admission that he knew some of the alleged Abu Sayyaf members killed or arrested in the Pasong raid.

SOURCES A4

THE HEARTBREAK IS CLEAR (top photo): The Sagalong children (from left) Ryndo (wearing forward), Miss contestant Ally (after Lara and Carlos leave on Rabo's lanzon, Jackie, at the St. Scholastica's College chapel in Manila; above, left) where Dodo Sagalong (arrow) stares for some time. A bagpiper (at right) leads the funeral march at the Manila Memorial Park in Paranaque City.

'Papa, Mama inseparable' but not for one final glimpse

By Allison W. Lopez
and Tarra Quismundo

JULIE QUINTAIN SAGALONG'S SLIGHT CHILD stands the family's heartbreak clear. That while his parents were "inseparable for more than 50 years," they could not be together for "one final glimpse."

A bagpiper played a mournful "Amazing Grace" as Rabo, 84, was buried at around 12:30 p.m. yesterday in a private mausoleum that of her mother, Pat Quintain, at the Garden of Reverence, among the oldest funeral grounds in the 100-hectare Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

His children Rabo, Lara, Benedict, Mich and Carlos said her siblings Pat Bernal, Alma Horn and Nora Rimbas, along with other kin and close friends, exchanged embraces between rites as they said their final goodbyes.

Speaking for his family at the funeral service at

THE ULTIMATE DEVOTEES

Walkout mars court martial hearings

By Nikko Dizon

TEMPERS FLARED YESterday at the court-martial hearing yesterday of 23 military officers accused of leading the failed power grab of February 2006, with one defense lawyer calling it what she said was the "highly questionable acts" of the military tribunal.

A number of the accused officers, among them Marine Colonels Ariel Querubin and Achilles Segumalian, stood up and walked the local military court-martial, Lt. Col. Felicisimo Joy a "fair."

The highest-ranked among them, former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, and Marine Lt. Col. Orlando de Leon, stayed in their seats.

Lt. Col. Antonio Lazaro M. Lazo, Querubin's counsel, objected to the walkout.

The issue of contention was whether or not Army Brig. Gen. Hunter Batallo had already convened his right to peremptory challenge, the privilege granted to an accused in a court-martial to reject any member of the court without having to cite any grounds or any time before arraignment.

Defense Lawyer Lt. Col. Lazaro said that even before Batallo could avail of the privileges, the members of the court-martial panel took their oath which formally convened the

HOLDOUT A6

No. 8 car frequent visitor on Anahaw St.

By Joanne O. Jacinto

ONE THING THAT STRUCK neighbors of the occupants of a 2-story house in Barangay Payatas in Quezon City was the frequent appearance in the area of a vehicle bearing plate No. 8.

That plate number is reserved for the members of the House of Representatives.

Another thing they found strange was one of the occupants often bought a load using different SIM numbers.

The three occupants of the house confirmed 4 Lot 22, Anahaw St., Dahlgan Homes Subdivision, Payatas B were killed the other day in an apparent encounter with the police, who claimed they

FULL STORY A6

Davao farmer walks home to freedom on amparo

By TJ Burgonio

A YOUNG FARMER, IVHO WAS held and tortured by the military on suspicion he was a communist rebel, walked home a free man on Wednesday after a local court ruled that enough was his petition for the writ of amparo.

Lando Bustamante was ordered released from military custody by the regional trial court in Davao City last Wednesday afternoon after hearing his petition, the human rights group Karapatan said yesterday.

Bustamante, 22, became the second man in a week to get such a relief from the courts. In the petition, his mother prayed for his immediate release from military custody.

Executive Judge Iono Sobido ruled that sufficient should extend Bustamante's liberty, and

DETAILS A6

Rene asked docs to let him attend burial

By DJ Yap

ON THE MORNING HE WENT TO DIE, he told no one. Rene Saguisag asked his doctors to be allowed to go to his funeral.

"He never said, 'Can I go?'" Dr. Eric Rubio, chief of the Makati Medical Center's patient relations office, told yesterday. But the man was lying on a hospital bed with tubes attached to his body, making it impossible for him to meet the conditions for his doctors' permission.

"He wanted to attend but we told him and his family that there's a requirement: that can't be achieved right now," said Dr. Victor Abcede, who heads the team of specialists attending to the former senator.

Abcede said the conditions were that the 68-year-old patient had to be free of all tubes, could sit up comfortably, was pain-free, and was conscious and lucid.

Of these conditions, the neurosurgeon said, Saguisag met only the last.

MORE ANGELS A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT

23 4 | 1 2 5 5

SUERTRES

6 1 9 | 7 8 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45

1 4 16 21 29 42

P5,002,358.40

RP, Japan eye side deal

Accord to correct flaws in Jpepa, says Miriam

By Cff C. Catsuyoguin jr.

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY crafting a side agreement with Japan that will address all concerns on the ratification of the Japan Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) in a last-ditch bid to save the treaty from being rejected at the Senate.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said a side agreement was necessary to correct the provisions that give the Japanese parity rights over investments unless reserved only for Filipinos under the Constitution.

"Mr. (Sen. Mar Roxas) and I have already agreed in principle that we have to find a way to clear the treaty will not be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court but will also be acquired of the approval and consent of Japan. It is very, very important that we have a side agreement," Santiago said.

Roxas, chairman of the Senate committee on foreign relations, Santiago has taken the initiative to draft the diplomatic language of the accord, with DFA and the Japanese ambassador to the Philippines.

Santiago said she is hoping to accommodate the constitutional dimension in the treaty because it "will be no embarrassment for both the President and the Philippine Senate and at the same time, a ground for dispute with Japan at an international court."

Santiago said most senators believe they "must save the treaty because there are good provisions there" but only if safety nets would be put in place.

She noted that the main concern of senators was that Japan appeared to have set more favorable terms in the treaty than the Philippines which had fewer reservations than Thailand and Malaysia's treaty with Japan.

"When they (Japan) were negotiating the treaty, the Japanese government's panel were very alert. They made very comprehensive reservations. Unfortunately for us, the reservations we made are too few. What happens now under the treaty is that the Philippines is in a disadvantage. The negative list made reservations to the 'National Treatment' clause, the 'Most Favored Nation' clause, and the 'Prohibition Against Performance Requirements.'"

Under the "National Treatment" clause, the state must accord to the nationals of the other treaty the same treatment but you are allowed to make reservations. There are reservations that are much longer than ours," said Santiago.

Santiago proposed that the Philippines make a provision in the side agreement that would allow the Philippines to make further reservations within a year of ratifying the treaty just to ensure constitutionality of the treaty.

The last Jpepa hearing will be held next Friday, Nov. 23, with Roxas taking over the panel committee report.

Raul Gonzalez is back

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER A KEENLY ANTICIPATED and more than two-month-closed, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday resumed his post, saying he is ready to work and is free from his critics.

Gonzalez, who underwent the operation in September, briefly visited the DOJ yesterday morning and toured it around, meeting with his personal bank and scheduled a staff meeting on Monday.

He also directed personnel to submit to the Office of the Justice Secretary to return to their posts.

"I'm relieved that I have to say cleared by office in the month of January effective November 16, 2007," he said in his memorandum.

Gonzalez said he feels fine, although his legs were not as strong as before. He said that he has been advised not to be stressed by his critics, as well as by his wife and two of his children who are doctors.

There are dietary restrictions he had to deal with, since he has been advised to eat more vegetables and avoid bananas because too much potassium is bad for his heart. He also has to monitor his blood sugar, he added.

Gonzalez said his doctors gave him clearance to resume his job, and added that he is more than ready to tackle the work and face his critics.

"I said I shall return, and I have remained. I'm ready to resume my duties for my country," said he as President," he said in a phone interview.

WHAT'S INSIDE

ERAP scoffs at calls to rescind his pardon A3

COPS quiz pa, brothers for Mariannet's rape A9

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Erap scoffs at calls to rescind his pardon

By Krixine L. Abat and TJ Burgonio

CONVICTED PLUNDERER EX-President Joseph Estrada yesterday scoffed at those calling for the revocation of the pardon granted to him by President Macapagal-Arroyo or even at the possibility of such an event occurring, claiming that the ex-executive clemency he got was absolute and unconditional.

But if the President should decide to rescind the pardon, Estrada said he would accede to the decision and chalk it up to a "flawed justice system."

"It's up to them. They're the ones in power. They can do anything they want," said Estrada who was found guilty of plunder by the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court last September and sentenced to life imprisonment.

"If they do that, I can't do anything about it," he added.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said that any of the government to rescind the pardon granted to Estrada for failing to surrender the assets ordered forfeited by the Sandiganbayan.

By questioning the forfeiture, Estrada was violating the terms and conditions of his pardon, Villa-Ignacio said.

Some civil society groups joined Villa-Ignacio's call while Estrada dismissed as publicity-seeking.

Estrada insisted that what was granted to him was an unconditional clemency.

"It was not a conditional pardon. They restored my civil rights, my political rights. If there was a violation of the pardon, then they can take it back. But as far as I'm concerned, this is not conditional pardon," Estrada said in a phone interview.

Still in force

Actually, the pardon granted by the President did not affect the forfeiture aspect of the Sept. 12 Sandiganbayan judgment convicting Estrada of plunder and ordering the forfeiture of about P700 million worth of bank deposits and property.

Mr. Arroyo's executive clemency order, read on national television by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye last Oct. 25, said the forfeiture of Estrada's properties and money imposed by the Sandiganbayan would "remain in force and in full, including all ancillary and processes issued by the court...except for the bank accounts Estrada's owned before his tenure as President."

Two weeks ago, the Sandiganbayan issued writs of execution of its Sept. 12 judgment, directing the court sheriff to recover the ill-gotten wealth of Estrada and seize other properties not covered by the writs if Estrada cannot pay all or part of his obligations.

Estrada, however, filed a motion last week to quash the writs, arguing that they went beyond the dispositive portion of his Sandiganbayan decision. A hearing on the motion scheduled for yesterday was rescheduled for Monday.

In its Sept. 12 judgment, the Sandiganbayan ordered the forfeiture of P545 million illegal gambling kitties that he pocketed, a P189 million commission that he collected for ordering the state pension funds to buy Belle Corp. shares, and the so-called tobacco money in Currency City.

Sandiganbayan Sheriff Edgardo Ortirez has so far managed to recover only a third of the assets, P215 million in deposits that the Banco de Oro (BPI) surrendered last Thursday.

The amount represents the principal plus interest of the P200 million deposited in the name of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation which the court said formed part of the P545.29 million that Estrada had amassed in illegal gambling kitties.

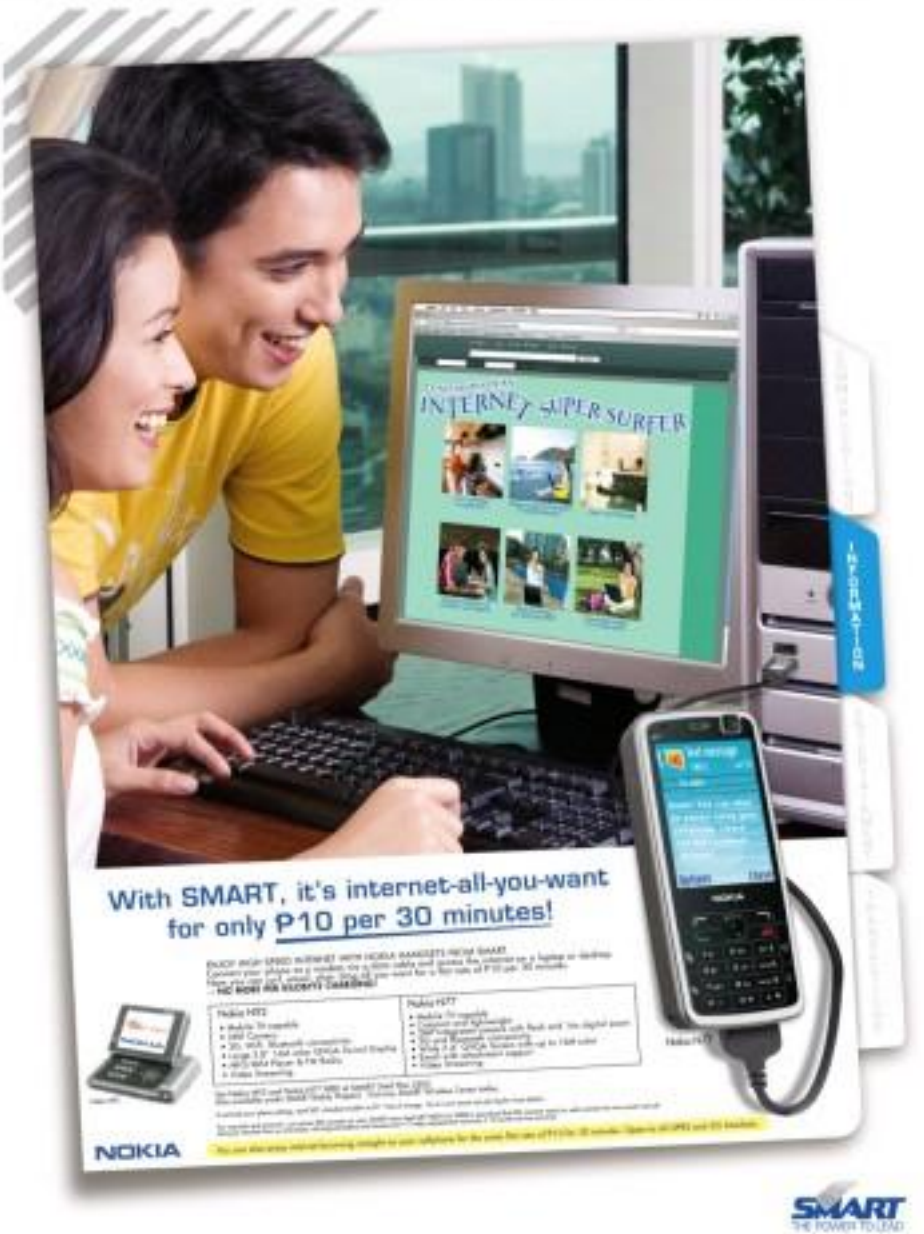
Estrada yesterday posed no objection to the Sandiganbayan confiscating the P215 million, saying "it wasn't for me, so what do I care if they get it."

He admitted the amount came from jueteng but claimed that it was given by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

"I never benefited from it. The beneficiaries are our Muslim youth," he said in an interview over dzMM.

But he said the court did not have the right to seize his "hard-earned" personal property that acquired before he became President, which he said he would use relinquish without a fight.

He claimed to come from an "upper middle class" family whose ancestors were so rich his family was able to live in various "mansions."



Walkout mars court-martial hearings

military tribunal.

According to court-martial rules, only after all preliminary challenges have been exhausted can the panel be sworn in.

The court-martial panel called for three recesses during the six-hour-long hearing to discuss this contentious issue, only to deny every motion made by the defense's panel.

"This is plain and obvious suppression of the truth. We wanted Ibrahim to speak up but they didn't allow him to," Querubin told reporters afterward.

Photojournalists and TV crews were prohibited from taking any footage of the hearing. They were not allowed to stay out of the courtroom holding area with their equipment.

Ignored

At the hearing, Ibrahim manifested in open court that he had not yet challenged any member of the panel.

But he was ignored, with the panel ruling in favor of the military prosecution who claimed, based on the transcripts of a previous hearing, that Ibrahim had said that he had already availed of the privilege.

Westlaw.ec pointed out that the transcript of the Nov. 9 hearing was wrong and that it was actually Lt. Ibrahim Ibrosa and not Ibra-

DEFIANCE: The 10 military officers including Marine Col. Ariel Querubin (second of pleading a coup last February) salute their superiors during the court-martial hearing for coup plotters at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. (MLOW) Soldiers wait for the court-martial hearing to start.

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Nora Ocampo, Stage 4 Breast, Liver, Ovary & Bone Cancer Survivor

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... I am forced to withdraw my appearance today because I cannot see the logic," Conde, the lawyer of Marine Col. Arnaudo Ibañez, told the military tribunal.

Defense lawyer Tomas Gener Antonio also told reporters that seeing a peremptory challenge a different from exercising it.

Angeles II insisted that the military tribunal supposedly "has no interest in knowing what is true or not."

"Its acts are highly questionable," as it would seize rulings without any explanation, said Angeles.

One of the military prosecutors, Maj. Rodito Peñaverde, said reporters that the panel's denial of the defense motion was "based on record" but declined to explain the basis for the denial, citing the principle of sub judice.

The accused military officers have called the court-martial hearing a "sham proceedings" and staged a walkout on Nov. 9.

Tension is court

Yesterday, they defied Pojas' order for them to crowd up in Air Force Brig. Gen. Rolando Cajeta to testify as witness of the panel.

Tension gripped the courtroom as Pojas twice ordered the accused officers to line up with the panel, the military prosecutors and the defense lawyers after prolonged wrangling in their text.

But the officers, led by Ibrahim, Querubin and Maj. Gen. Danilo Lim, the former chief of the Scout Rangers, remained glued to their seats.

The accused officers are on trial for mutiny and for violations of the Articles of War for allegedly conspiring to march with their men to the Edsa Shrine and join antigovernment groups and declare their withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on the 20th anniversary of the first People Power Revolution.

Davao farmer walks home ...

From page A1

clear his basic rights as a civilian should be upheld, said Sally Indigado, Karapatan secretary general for southern Mindanao.

This was confirmed by Bantayan's lawyer.

"We're happy with the outcome. We hope that the judges in Manila will take their cue from the judges who acted quickly on such petitions," Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez said in text to reporters.

"To act with dispatch and save innocent civilians from possible killing is after all the spirit of the writ of amparo."

The writ, a new remedy for victims of killings and disappearances introduced by the Supreme Court, requires respondents to take actions to resolve a grievance and not merely deny the allegations against them.

The rules took effect on Oct. 24.

Stopped at a checkpoint

Bantayanan and two friends were stopped at a military checkpoint in Barangay Malabog, Digkilaan District in Davao City while riding a motorcycle on their way to distribute campaign materials on the afternoon of Oct. 27.

A certain Bob Obut, head of the paramilitary group manning the checkpoint, asked Bantayanan to stay behind as suspects he was a member of the New People's Army, but let the two others go.

Nothing was heard from him again.

On Nov. 7, the victim's mother Rebelita Bantayanan and Karapatan filed a petition for writ of amparo with the RTC 11th Judicial Region in Davao City. They were aided by lawyers from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Union of People's Lawyers in Mindanao and the Free Legal Assistance Group.

The respondents, Noli Obut and Lt. Col. Alexander V. Andal of the 73rd Infantry Battalion Philippine Army (73rd IBPA), were named and were represented by the OSG.

After hearing Bantayanan's testimony, his lawyers' arguments and counter-arguments from the OSG lawyers, the judge ordered his release.

"I think the judge found the grounds in the petition justifiable, so he issued an order to produce him in court. And considering that the military presented him, the court ordered his release," lawyer Eduardo Tarrazo, one of the petitioner's lawyers, said in an interview by phone.

"The writ of amparo has more teeth than the writ of habeas corpus."

Beaten and hogtied

During the hearing, Bantayanan said he signed an affidavit admitting he was a member of the NPA, but his lawyers questioned that because it was signed in a military camp.

After his release, Bantayanan recalled to Karapatan members that he was allegedly brought to military camps in Davao City, and eventually turned into informing for sum a guerrilla, according to Delgado.

On Oct. 26, a day after he was questioned at a checkpoint, he was brought to a military camp of the 73rd Infantry Battalion in Pagadian in Zamboanga del Sur, he was interrogated, beaten and tortured, and threatened to harm his family if he refused to admit he was a member of the NPA," Delgado said in an interview.

Fears for life

In the next couple of days, the young farmer was transferred to another military camp in Davao del Norte, and then allegedly tortured again, he said, quoting Bantayanan. "They wrapped his head in a cellophane sprinkled with pepper," he said.

The torture stopped after his mother went to the press to report his disappearance.

Bantayanan continued to feel pain from the torture. He was also traumatized by his arrest, detention and torture he refused to go back home, Bantayanan said.

"Up to him (to decide whether to file counter-charges). Sexually to adult as a problem. (I think he fears for his life," he said.

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From page A1

were members of the Abu Sayyaf group.

Three others in the group were arrested.

Police identified the three fatalities as Basheer Mamasa, his wife Jiaing and Abu Jandal, an alleged leader of the group.

As of 9 o'clock last night, the bodies of the three remained in a morgue in Prime Pictorial Homes in Commonwealth, Quezon City, despite a Muslim custom of burying their dead within 24 hours.

The trio were killed at around 4 p.m. Thursday.

Neighbors interviewed by the Inquirer said that they knew nothing about the occupants of the house, except that they were "quiet neighbors."

Claimants came

Bai Rasa, Bayanat representative of Prime Pictorial Homes, said three men had dropped by early yesterday morning wanting to claim the bodies.

"They introduced themselves as the teammates [of the dead] and asked me how they could claim the bodies," Rasa said, describing the men as wearing the customary Muslim cap and speaking in what sounded like a Mindanao dialect.

Rasa said that he told them they would need to present identification papers and that, if they were not relatives, they would have to show a letter of authorization from the spouse, sibling or parents to prove they were allowed to claim the bodies.

The three men did not present any IDs nor did they introduce themselves. They simply asked for a compact disc of how much IDs are given at Prime Pictorial Homes.

Then they left, promising to claim the bodies later yesterday or today.

Respect for Islam

Another group came at around 9 p.m. last night also to claim the bodies but, as of press time, funeral parlor representatives and the group were still finalizing our details.

A representative of the group said they wanted to bring the remains to Tagaig City.

Rosa said that the funeral home did not perform any autopsy on the bodies knowing it was against the Islamic faith.

"We know about the Muslim tradition of burying their dead within 24 hours. We are also aware that it is against their faith for an autopsy to be conducted on the bodies. We respect all religious faiths," he pointed out.

Neighbors of the three members claimed they were surprised by the police raid, saying they had no inkling that the house had been...according to police...a bomb den.

Different numbers

One neighbor, Leticia Bagalacsa, said what she noticed about the group was that one of them would constantly buy a load for different cellular phone numbers.

"I never saw them leave in big appliances, like refrigerators or cabinets," the neighbor said.

"She [Jiaing] would always ask me to send the load to a number and then text me for confirmation ... If the load had been sent."

Bagalacsa said that she did not know if the man who constantly bought the e-load was one of the three killed in Thursday's raid.

"They looked normal and they did not look like they fapped. That's why we were surprised when we were informed by police officers that they were bandits. They did not look the part," Bagalacsa said.

She stressed that they never really knew the suspects because they moved in only some two to three weeks before the police assault.

Another neighbor, who asked not to be named, remarked that when the group moved into Block 4 Lot 23, she noticed that they had no appliances with them.

A PNP medico-legal officer shows the chassis bearing the serial number of the motorcycle which allegedly carried the bomb. Based on the serial number, authorities traced the motorcycle owner which led them to the house on Anahaw Street, Barangay Payatas B, Quezon City

A PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE was found in the Payatas raid, among them, the ID of Rasmin Indanan, formerly the personal driver of the former Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Garry Sahipuddin

NO HOLDBACKS and no relatives here claimed the bodies of three suspected Abu Sayyaf members at the Prime Pictorial Parlor morgue on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City as of 9 last night

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Australian Federal Elections 2007

The Australian Prime Minister announced that the Federal Election will take place on Saturday 24th November 2007. For more information please visit the Australian Electoral Commission website, www.aec.gov.au and the Smartvoter website, www.smartvoter.gov.au, for the closest issuing station for the Australian Federal Election.

The Australian Embassy will be open for pre-poll voting during the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday from 12-23 November and Election Saturday, 24 November 2007 from 8.30am-4.30pm. The Embassy is located at 23rd Floor of the BCBC Plaza, Tower 2, 6817 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. We encourage you to make use of the pre-polling times to avoid queues on Saturday. For further updates, please visit the Australian Embassy Manila website at http://www.philippines.embassy.gov.au/

Please register your presence in the Philippines by registering on-line at www.smartvoter.gov.au

Web killing men's mags; women's mags ...

From page A1

king their eyeballs.

Magazine publishers such as London-based media group Emap, Germany's Axel Springer and France's Lagardere have seen a still growing in their magazine stocks—those for women are surging while men's magazines drop.

"They are a casualty of the Internet. That is for sure," Investigate D'Orazio, Chief Financial Officer of French media group Lagardere told investors at a Morgan Stanley technology, media and telecoms conference on Thursday.

"It is men's magazines that I am talking about, magazines with women with not too many clothes," he said.

Shifting investments

Stefan Stoinmetz, chief operating officer and chief financial officer at Axel Springer, said segments such as those existing for women are growing, "but in Germany, certainly not. The men's number category."

On Tuesday, London-based Emap said first-half underlying revenue in its consumer magazines division fell 8 percent.

However, this masked a strong performance by its women's weekly titles such as Grazia, Heat and Closer which grew 4 percent. Emap blamed a 14-percent slump in its portfolio of monthly magazines on weakness in men's titles.

D'Orazio said publishers like Lagardere were dealing with the trend by shifting their investment plans and looking at lucrative options.

China, Russia

Lagardere has pulled back from new launches outside of emerging markets while investing in places like China and Russia where magazine growth rates can be 30 percent, he said.

It means that although men's magazines may not do well there's no point in opposition there when to digital media by building websites that primarily focus on content such as fishing, golf and autos.

D'Orazio said Lagardere was currently considering such options within declining segments of the male-focused magazines market—such as those with monthly chat rooms.

YouTube victim

"We think it was killed by YouTube videos where you can find free and jobs-based content for teenagers and college boys for free," he added.

YouTube is the online video unit of Google Inc. operating in a market with other Web video services such as MySpace.com.

"I'm the Internet it is easier to get free's for and young men's spread are much time with YouTube or Dailymotion they don't buy magazines any more," D'Orazio said. Reuters

PCPA

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E-mail: ncwcenter@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.ncwc.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PARTICULAR	APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT (ABC)	SOURCE OF FUND
LOT 1		
Two (2) units Multi-Purpose Vessels	Php 1,150,000.00	
One (1) unit Service Vessel	Php 1,150,000.00	
LOT 2		
One (1) unit Multi-Purpose Vessel	Php 1,150,000.00	
One (1) unit Service Vessel	Php 1,150,000.00	
	Php 4,600,000.00	GAA Current Fund

CAGELOOK

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

RP-Spain pact may benefit rapist

BAIE ... CLOSED
Francisco Joaco "Paco" Larrañaga, a 59-year-Spanish national, could be the first to avail of the proposed Philippine-Spain treaty on the transfer of convicted prisoners being hired in the Senate.

"Larrañaga I will be the most celebrated beneficiary of the treaty as he stands to be a dual citizen," said Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, head of the committee on foreign affairs, in an interview after the public hearing on the treaty yesterday.

Santiago said that if the Supreme Court finally rejects Larrañaga's appeal to overturn the latter's court ruling on his rape case, "he can request that he be jailed in Spain or the Spanish government can make the request provided he consents."

Larrañaga was convicted in 2004 of the kidnap-rape slay of Eileen and Jacqueline Ozing in Cebu City. There are currently 7 out of the 80,000 Filipinos in Spain who are in detention or house arrest or facing court cases ranging from homicide to drug-trafficking to assault.

The treaty aims to bring back foreign prisoners into their country of nationality to serve their sentences and enable them to be rehabilitated and integrated more to their family and friends.

After yesterday's public hearing, Santiago said she would sponsor the bill on the Senate floor on Monday. She said she hoped that it would be approved by the third reading after three days.

Santiago said that the family of the rape victims might oppose the transfer because "they may want Larrañaga to serve his sentence here so that the public will feel that the victim's family will be discouraged if he is imprisoned in Spain."

Santiago said the country has this incentive money with living and Thailand and she hoped to adopt the same paces with other countries, especially in the Middle East in view of the millions of Filipinos working overseas.

"They (Filipino prisoners) should not consider themselves as inconvenience because they have no relatives to visit them," said Santiago who was also hoping to include a P5 million budgetary allocation for the treaty which would be used to pay for the travel costs of bringing back the Filipino prisoners.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, the Public Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Corrections and the Department of Justice previously endorsed the treaty. GMA Embassy urges Fr.

Solved but not closed, say police

From page A1

"We are taking these things into consideration ... However, that is not enough basis to conduct an investigation on former Congressman Sahiraldin," Razon said.

Akbar was among four people killed in Tuesday's bombing in the Sunnies, in which 11 others were wounded. Police have said they believe Akbar was the target of the blast.

Strong link to Batasan bombing

Razon added that investigators are "gathering additional facts and evidence" to warrant inviting Sahiraldin to give a statement on the case.

"We still have to await the development of the investigation," he said.

At the press conference, police showed reporters items recovered from the Sunnies raid. They included components for a Honda XR6E motorcycle, various tools, nine cell phones, pictures, ID cards, 45 fake cards, driver's licenses, a motorcycle helmet and various calling cards.

Three of the calling cards bore the congressional office of Sahiraldin, and an envelope with the letterhead of Sahiraldin's congressional office.

"[What we have] is just an association (based on the administration of Sahiraldin). That is not enough for you to have more," Razon said.

Razon said the raid on Anahaw Street, Bahagui Homes in Payatas, was a break in the investigation into the blast and established a strong link between the explosive and three suspects killed in Payatas and three others arrested in the raid.

Suspects recognized

"The Payatas operation is a major breakthrough in the case ... based on the physical evidence we've gathered," Razon said.

He said the deed of sale on a motorcycle believed to have been used to deliver the bomb that exploded in Congress contained a chassis number 3B00 13 068 200 339.

Razon said the members 9862032339 appears in the bar code recovered from the damaged motorcycle.

A security guard at the House also positively identified Rasul Indama, one of the suspects now in custody, as having entered the south wing compound of the Batasan Sunnies before the explosion, said Razon.

He added the security guard also recognized the helmet recovered in Payatas.

Razon said investigators were looking at all possible angles and working double time in their questioning of the three suspects since police could only legally hold them for 36 hours unless cases were filed against them.

According to the motorcycle's deed of sale, the vehicle was bought by Adham Kasanin, of 52 Almacigo St., Northview II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City. The motorcycle was sold by a certain Ahmad Sih of 130-D Sinagtala, Batasan Hills.

ARRAIGN: Who did it?

SALAFUDDIN: Has suspect

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the suspects could be charged before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court separately for the Batasan blast and for resisting arrest.

Not planted

Razon defended the PNP from accusations that the evidence which police said they found were planted.

"Your police are working and doing their jobs despite the hardships, like lack of sleep, our men are risking their lives regardless of the criticism of those who are not satisfied with the work they do," Razon said.

Police said the Payatas shootout occurred while a combined team from the Armed Forces and the PNP was trying to serve a warrant of arrest against a certain Fahir Said, alias Abu Jindal, supposedly a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

Jindal and two other suspects—identified by the police as Rohwen Indama and his wife Jasmin—were killed while purportedly resisting arrest.

Suspect ex-solon's driver

Razon said the raid was staged based on a tip on the presence of wanted persons in the area.

Sahiraldin, a former three-term representative of Surigao, and that one of the suspects—Rasul Indama, from whom police said they recovered a Home ID, was indeed his personal driver.

"I'm willing to show up to help untangle the puzzle," Sahiraldin said in a telephone interview.

He said the people he knew among the suspects killed or arrested were hardly the type who would be members of the Abu Sayyaf group.

Sahiraldin, a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front, also admitted knowing suspects Rhaider Indasul and Adham Kasanin.

He said he also knows Rohwen Indamar, whom he identified as a former MNLF leader, and his wife Jasmin.

"The last time we had dinner together was three years. He was a former task driver who also worked as a family driver," Sahiraldin said of Rwen.

"As far as I know, he was never an Abu Sayyaf," he added.

"When my name surfaced, he denied to look for another job."

Sahiraldin said, however, that Rwen had volunteer salaried members.

Other suspects

He said that Asrial was a former brother-in-law of his, explaining that Asrial's sister and he had divorced.

"What I know is that he was looking for a vehicle to buy. They are engaged in vehicle that they use for public transport," Sahiraldin said.

Kasain is reportedly a student Sahiraldin helped to gain employment in Metro Manila.

"He works as a pushcart boy in the Mart," Sahiraldin said.

"I would like to say positive that suspect of them would be Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Sahiraldin said Rohwen Indama was his driver's uncle and was a former leader of the Moro National Liberation Front.

"As a former MNLF leader myself, I know him and his activities," he said.

Sahiraldin denied knowing Said or Jindal.

"I cannot be denied that are my political rivals, but we were also political allies," Sahiraldin said of Akbar.

Sahiraldin said he and Akbar ran under the same slate in Bataan in the 2004 elections.

In the last elections, Sahiraldin ran and lost to Akbar's wife Joan in the Bataan gubernatorial elections.

"The only time we parted ways was when he started fielding his own relatives and I had an avowed advocacy against political dynasties," Sahiraldin said.

Why link me?

Rizal Mayoress party list Rep. Hajji Mamintal, another congressman who had political disagreements with Akbar, said one of those who were killed—Rohwen Indama—in the raid was his distant relative.

Rohwen was not an Abu Sayyaf fanatic but a former councilor of Tipo-Tipo, Basilan.

Mamintal said he could not understand why it appeared that he was also being dragged into the case.

Speaker Jose de Venecia urged the police and its troops.

"The terrorist money pay-offs by [Omarkayam] Maguindanao and members of the House has led to the spectacular breakthrough in the Batasan bombing investigation," De Venecia said. With a report from Julie L. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

'Papa, Mama inseparable but could not be together for one final glimpse'

From page A1

the St. Scholastica's College Chapel in Manila, Sarbo Segovia, 25, spoke of how he had to make the difficult decision of burying his mother while his father lay in the intensive care unit of the Makati Medical Center.

His voice cracking, Sarbo said: "Mama and Papa are one. Papa is what he is largely because of Mama. Indeed, behind every great man is a woman. ...

"I also regret the fact that my father could not join us here to day. Imagine what the rest of the family had to go through, preparing for my mother's feast, of which thinking of Papa's health. And as Chito [Quesada] said, we received news that the [breathing] tube has finally been removed. (See related story on Page A2.) But not in time for him to join us here. ...

"The hardest part for me was to make a decision for Papa to undergo treatment. Rene and Dodot, Papa and Mama, inseparable for more than 40 years, could not even be together for one second...for one final glimpse."

By his side

According to his brother-in-law, Bete Segovia, then a cash-strapped resident in the United States, could not attend their parents' respective funerals in the Philippines. It was Dodot who stepped by his side.

"Because of financial difficulties, Bete could not fly home. He never set eyes on his late parents again. There was no video tape then. During those two sorrowful occasions, only Dodot was present in his place," Mina said.

Sarbo said as "true-loving wife" was how Mina, a busy lawyer and activist, referred to Dodot because he was grateful to her for making up for his shortcomings as a father.

FINAL FAREWELL: Some of those who will always love her best.

MOURNERS at the funeral Mass inside Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City include Ex-President Joseph Estrada, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro, Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto, Estrada's son, JV Ejercito, San Juan mayor. AMY COSICO

What he lacked, she filled, even financially, he can said.

"During our school days, she always made sure that we stayed away from what she always referred to as 'bad company.' In 1997, she even took me out of Investidumper where I was employed. (See related story on Page A2.) But not in time for him to join us here. ...

"The hardest part for me was to make a decision for Papa to undergo treatment. Rene and Dodot, Papa and Mama, inseparable for more than 40 years, could not even be together for one second...for one final glimpse."

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It is a mishap that the family still insists to grapple with, admitted Sarbo.

"As I stand here before you, I ask, 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' It is so unfair. But I take comfort that Mama is already in paramount up there, and they continue to watch over us. I somehow take joy in the fact that the last thing she did was something she really loved, and with someone she loved the most," he said.

Sarbo lamented that his mother would not be part of his wedding (which had either been scheduled in December), nor would she be able to experience having a grandmother.

"My only regret is that she will never be part, at least physically, of my planned wedding with my fiancee Jackie. Neither would she be able to hold a grandchild in her arms, something that she so richly deserved," he said.

He expressed gratitude to his and his siblings' "extended families"—the Quintanares and Manuntiags—their other relatives and friends, and to St. Sebastian's College and San Beda College, and asked for their "continued prayers for us to cope as a family."

Cancer survivor

The bagpiper played a funeral march as the hearse arrived at the Manila Memorial Park at 12:23 p.m.

Thick clouds momentarily blotted out the sun and white balloons bearing a message of love were released in the gloomy skies as Sarbo Segovia, a former actor and first cancer survivor, was laid to rest.

Her casket was draped with the Philippine flag and shone cool with flower petals.

"She prepared the inside for herself 30 years ago, when she still had [breast] cancer. But she survived. She was given a clean bill of health," said Amy Bernad, a relative of Dodot's who had helped arrange her funeral.

In prayer, the gathering of some 300 mourners said, "We offer her, Lord, our love, blessing or shortcomings we may have done against you.

"We release you from all the obligations to this world."

By the family's request, mourners of the media had been requested to a designated area. But cameramen and photographers offended some of the mourners when cameras continued rolling.

Life of the party

Dodot's family lingered at the grave site until her tomb was sealed.

The mourners whose relatives described as the life of the party and the perfect "emcee," and whom her children were disclosed were nicknamed "Cinderella" coordinator was truly gone.

"She really was there for us," Sarbo said, sobbing.

"She always believed in us. She always believed we were bigger than our actually were. She instilled that we make time for family and that means all the parties and reunions you can think of ... She was almost always in the middle of things with her boundless energy and enthusiasm."

Sarbo's sister Alma Kate: "She was the most colorful person I've ever known ...

"I already miss Dad. Knowing Dodot, she would find funny stories about her even make, but that will have to wait till we meet again."

Rene asked doctors to let him attend his wife's burial

From page A1

Sarbo said all five of Segovia's children visited their father ready to the morning before the funeral. At that time, he still had a breathing tube running through his mouth and down his throat, and could communicate only through body signals or writing.

"He asked if he could go with them," Sarbo said.

When his doctors refused permission, Segovia accepted it calmly. "He's very reasonable," Sarbo said. "He did not argue."

Asked about the patient's disposition, Abrasaz said: "If he was emotionally affected, he was hiding it excellently."

Breathing on his own

The doctors took Segovia off the respirator later in the morning, and he started breathing on his own again.

"He can talk now but his throat is sore, as his voice is very soft," Abrasaz said.

"He is resting considerably and seems to experience less intense episodes of pain at this time," according to the medical bulletin.

A tube remains attached to Segovia's chest to drain the fluids accumulating there.

"Repeat chest X-ray studies showed improvement in his chest congestion," the bulletin said.

Abrasaz said the chest tube could be removed in two days. He commended the hope that Segovia could be moved from the intensive care unit to a regular room "early next week."

By then, it would have been almost two weeks since a dump truck slammed into the family car driven by Felipe Salvador and carrying Rene and Dodot Segovia and their longtime driver instructor Rhea Hoang. It was past 7 a.m., and the couple were on their way home from a night of dancing.

Hoang, who took arrival of a remote room at the site—the intersection of Arnaiz Street and Osmeña Highway in Makati City—Dodot Segovia was pronounced dead on arrival at the Ospital ng Makati.

Stable but...

Hoang, who was rushed to the Calvario, was treated for minor injuries.

"As a former MNLF leader myself, I know him and his activities," he said.

Sahiraldin denied knowing Said or Jindal.

"I cannot be denied that are my political rivals, but we were also political allies," Sahiraldin said of Akbar.

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Cops quiz pa, brothers for Mariannet's rape

DAVAO CITY—THE FATHER AND TWO brothers of suicide Mariannet Arispe were formally questioned by police investigators yesterday following the results of an autopsy that indicated the 12-year-old may have been raped.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said the results of the autopsy confirmed the theory that the girl was raped and that could have caused her to commit suicide, contrary to earlier claims that she killed herself because of poverty.

Supt. Glenthorn Razong, Talomo District police chief, said Mariannet's two brothers appeared "normal" during the investigation.

"They were consistent about their whereabouts that day [when Mariannet died]," he said.

But Isabelo, the girl's father, appeared to be "defensive and evasive" when asked about the results of the autopsy, he said.

"It appeared that he had knowledge of it. When he was confronted with fact, he had this kind of reaction that I consider defensive ... a manifestation that somehow, he had known about the abuse," Razong said.

Mariannet was found dead, apparently from hanging, in the family home in barangay Ma-a on April 30.

According to the autopsy report on the suicide, an unsent letter that Mariannet had written to the "Wish Ko Lang" TV program and the contents of her diary indicated that "she had lost hope that her family would ever rise from poverty."

The family agreed to an autopsy as speculations rose around the real cause of Mariannet's suicide.

The autopsy, conducted by Dr. Teresita Silmaralal, medico-legal officer of the scene of crime operations (Sowe) in Southern Mindanao, revealed lacerations in Mariannet's genitals. A "dried fresh blood" in the ligature around her neck was "left inflicted."

Razong said it did not necessarily mean that Isabelo had raped his daughter, although he is now considered a suspect, along with the girl's two older brothers.

He said the police wanted Isabelo and the brothers to undergo drug testing.

"It will be very essential because we are in his good state of mind will even do such an act to a little girl. Anyone of them found to be positive to drug usage will be automatically placed at the top of the list of suspects ... prime suspects," Razong said.

Razong said police investigators went to the Arispe family home to gather more information. Jeffrey Espec and Geraldine Lucero, reporter Mindanao, with Jerome Aning, Abreu Mendo

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GMA, Noli appeal for maid's life in Kuwait

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, Vice President Noli de Castro and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo have sought executive clemency for a Filipino domestic helper in Kuwait as the Kuwaiti Supreme Court is hearing her appeal of the lower court's decision which sentenced her to death by hanging for killing her employer.

Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Jesusito Endaya said in his report to the Department of Foreign Affairs that all three Philippine leaders have expressed concern with the Kuwaiti government.

Romulo had the case in the Kuwaiti Court of Appeals, where Filipino Consul Gina Ilagan, had requested an accept her blood money in exchange for her life.

The 23-year-old worker from Tabaid, Antique fled her employer in Kuwait on Dec. 31, 2003 to seek a domestic helper. While there, she had complained of repeated maltreatment from her employer, prompting her to kill him on Jan. 11, 2005.

Romulo is among the 20 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) presently on death row in foreign countries, including one in Brunei, two in China, one in the US, four in Kuwait, one in Saudi Arabia and 10 in Malaysia.

Endaya said that Kuwait's Supreme Court, the 11-member Court of Cassation, heard oral arguments on the Kuwaiti case last Nov. 15.

At that hearing, Ilagan reported that his wife Alfonsa Ilaryan, Ahmad Qather, and Abdel Majid Khaimet, argued Ranario's case at the entrance of the Philippine government in Sharaa Faiga.

He died here, 13 as age 71.

His remains to be sent to the residence of his brother, Rolando Cruz, in Bikkaran, Pasay City, Metro Manila where he was born.

R. Cruz; 71

REYNALDO O. CRUZ, who worked with the sales staff of Colgate-Palmolive and CFC, will be interred today at the Calamba Public Cemetery in Santa Rosa.

He died Nov. 13 at age 71.

His remains to be sent to the residence of his brother, Rolando Cruz, in Bikkaran, Pasay, Metro Manila where he was born.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 17, 2007
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Elizabeth of Hungary

1st Reading: Wis 13:1-9
Gospel: Luke 17:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples to those than they should pray constantly and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. In the same town was a widow who kept coming to him, saying 'Defend my rights against my opponent.' For a time he refused, but finally he thought 'Even though I neither fear God nor care about people, this widow bothers me so much I will see that she gets justice, then she will stop coming and wearing me out.'"

And Jesus explained, "Listen to what the evil judge says. Will God not do justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night even if he delays in answering them? I tell you, he will quickly do them justice. Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Commentary

God's Word has banished doom from the heavens to the stillness of night and to this Word is it always uttered that brings death and vain life, in their descent from the heavens and life and death's throne, as a fierce warrior who cannot ignore both will. This is what happened on the first God and, we believe, this has happened to the Word because that coming as to man, the Lord. We are to grasp and reflect upon the Word of the Lord, and let it transform our mind, affects, spiritual senses, and whole selves, so that we can walking on the justice, care for the poor, and unknowledge. God's will for the world. It has been to share the beginning. But if like Son of Man, she comes who attends on behalf of her rights and the rights of all those in the world without justice serves some way, would we find that as faithful or unfaithful to find us with other suppliers of the world, only concentrating doing justice because we are afraid of sickness, orphans, and the Word of God?

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RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Various 4Rs' Requirements

Project	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Source of Funds
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delivery Period	[illegible]	[illegible]
General Requirements	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pre-Bid Conference	[illegible]	[illegible]
Submission of Bids	[illegible]	[illegible]
Opening of Bids	[illegible]	[illegible]
Venue of Activities	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

Name of Security	Required Amount in Pesos (PHP)
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

SC chief bewails silence on killing of journalists

From page A1

opposing corrupt government practices in their provinces, making known illegal activities such as drug trafficking and gambling.

So far, only one case has been resolved, Puno noted. Given the role journalists play in the fight for truth and justice, people responsible for their deaths should be brought to justice—and fast.

"It is chilling to think that the lives of so many brave souls have been reduced to mere statistics. It is even more painful to know that only in one of these cases has even a court's conviction," said Puno in a speech he delivered on Thursday during a conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP).

The case Puno was referring to was the murder of broadcaster journalist Marlene Esperat, whose killers were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Cebu regional trial court in 2006.

"Still, this lone conviction hardly counts as a significant victory, as a great majority of the other cases remains unsolved, the killers still walking this land of varied and vividness," he added.

Puno said the killings send a chilling effect to journalists.

PUNO: Translate our words into deeds.

"It would be easy to pretend that all these attacks on journalists do not have an impact. (But they) do not stop reporters from pursuing uncertain stories. And, of course, they do ... In countries around the world, the chilling effect is the same," he said.

Chilling effect

He noted that in the Soviet Union, the attacks on members of the media had dampened the coverage of issues like corruption, organized crime, human rights violations and abuse of power.

Puno said the writ of amparo would address the murder of journalists, as well as other cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

The writ of amparo, issued last month by the Supreme Court requires respondents—whether government officials, agencies or private individuals—to take action to resolve a grievance and not merely deny the allegation against them.

End to atrocities

"We in the judiciary are so keenly interested in putting an end to these atrocities as you in the media are. We cannot, nor do we wish, to wash our hands of the responsibility of putting an end to extrajudicial killings, despite how easy it is to lay the blame on another branch of government," Puno stressed.

"We cannot in good conscience use the passive excuse that we are only empowered to decide cases brought to us by the prosecution," he said.

The rules for the writ of amparo, he explained, were a result of the high court's use of its power under the Constitution to promulgate rules to protect constitutional rights.

He noted the successful release of one detained person so far, and hopes that the writ of amparo would lead to less incidences of extralegal killings and enforced disappearances. (Related story on Page A1.)

Expedient relief

"We now have reason to hope that these extralegal killings and enforced disappearances will dissipate from our landscape. The writ of amparo addresses many of the problems that previously prevented redress of this nature from inviting judicial conclusion, such as lack of witnesses and inadequacy of evidence. But most importantly, it gives expedient relief to those being victimized and prevents the victimization of those being threatened," Puno said.

He added that the media and the judiciary would use moral and physical weapons to fight those who want to destroy democracy.

The media and the judiciary "also share a common commitment to truth, and to upholding this, they only need conscience, commitment and courage," he said.

Truth is beyond murder

"Let it be known that to discharge the duty of preserving the sanctity of truth, you in the media and we in the judiciary do not need the power of conviction or the power to purchase. We need no more than a clear conscience, no more than an unexceptionable conscience, and no more than the courage to translate our words into deeds," Puno added.

"Finally, let all remember and let all be warned that the light of truth has never been extinguished, not by any man, not by any might, and that those who try to bury truth succeed only in digging their own graveyards, for truth is eternal—it cannot be extinguished, it is beyond murder," he said.

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PHINMA PROPERTIES

After 3 years, justice still eludes Luisita victims

By Jerome Aning

THREE YEARS AFTER THE MASSACRE OF seven workers during a dispersal of a rally at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, justice remains elusive to the fallen farm workers and their families.

"Still justice to the victims of tiroteros and human bombings lie as elusive as to the fallen farm workers of Hacienda Luisita and their families?

The militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno raised this question as it led the commemoration yesterday of the massacre with a rally at the Bonifacio Shrine in Mauban, reiterating with the group's self-declared International Day of Action Against State-Sanctioned Repression in the Philippines.

KMU chair Elmer Labog warned the Arroyo administration for its failure to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of the massacre.

"Three years have passed and no one from the military and police forces who conducted the violent dispersal in the picket lines of the farm workers which resulted to the massacre were prosecuted and punished," he said.

Data the International Labor Organization (ILO), which received a complaint about the carnage, listed out that intensive force was used against the strikers and their supporters, Labog recalled.

The ILO had asked the Philippine government "to identify and punish those responsible without further delay" and requested the Arroyo administration "to give adequate instructions to the law enforcement authorities as soon as to eliminate the danger entailed by the use of excessive violence when controlling demonstrations."

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Erratum

In the Announcement Advertisement of the Office of the President of the Philippines that appeared on page A6 of the Inquirer's Newsstyle 16, 2007 issue, the 3rd and 4th paragraphs should have read:

"Applications and nominations must be submitted **not later than 30 November 2007** to the undersigned, 10th Floor, Presidential Management Staff Building, Arlegui St., Manila.

Manila, 16 November 2007."

The apologizes for the error.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Failure of command

EDITORIAL

JUSTICE, THE DIVINE COMMISSION SAID, IN ITS inquiry on mid-range, is the pressing need of our society. People can endure many things, including poverty and its accompanying hunger and disease. But there comes a time when injustice becomes so intolerable it provokes people to take justice into their own hands. Injustice is the forbearer of rebellion.

On Nov. 9, Army Scout Rangers and Philippine Marines officers walked out of a hearing being conducted by a court martial. The basis of the walkout was a document, a document, called the pre-trial advice (PTA), is supposed to be the basis of charges for which a court martial is convened to try enlisted men and officers accused of violating the Articles of War. This PTA would be the linchpin document around which the court martial of Maj.-Gen. Renato Miranda and 27 others would revolve; with it, the court martial could proceed to try them for their withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo in February 2006.

The wrangling between the prosecution and defense brought up a long-standing contention of the defense: the PTA, to this day, remains unsigned by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. One of the defense lawyers, Alex Arlando, suggested why this was so. He said the PTA, which was submitted by Col. Pedro Dardo, staff judge advocate, actually recommended the disapproval of the pre-trial investigation report (PTIR) that was prepared by the team headed by Col. Al Perteresa. Dardo also recommended the dismissal of the murder charges and the filing, instead, of the lesser charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentlemen."

The court martial pointed to a Nov. 17, 2006 memorandum that referred to both the PTIR and the PTA, and said the memorandum provided sufficient basis for the court martial to be constituted. The defense objected, but the court turned down a motion for reconsideration. Civilian lawyers for the defense then refused to participate in the proceedings any further, until a signed PTA would be produced. Meanwhile, the court martial declared itself legitimately convened, but unable to continue with the trial in the absence of civilian lawyers who had walked out; it tried to appoint Maj. Rodito Pontan as counsel for the defense. Pontan declined. The accused, he said, have a right to counsel of their own choosing.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has its own system of military justice and its code of conduct, the Articles of War, which governs what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior on the part of members of the military. The limitations on military behavior, to civilian eyes fully comprehend. Notions of honor and accountability are, theoretically, more fully ingrained in the military than among their freewheeling civilian counterparts.

Soldiers trained to face enemy bullets are therefore expected to face head-on a court composed of their peers that is convened to try them on charges of violating their military code. The soldiers, whose lawyers walked out of the court martial, themselves walked out of the proceedings on a point of military law. Whether the walkout indicates a truly insidious bent or is a justifiable demonstration of outrage over the AFP chief's lack of courage to sign the PTA in which the charges, he was advised, are too severe, will naturally be debated.

What is beyond debate is that had Esperon signed the document in question, there would be no doubt about the legitimacy of a court martial, which the soldiers were willing to face. Those aren't officers who did a Gringo Honasan. They marched into captivity and willingly faced the prospect of a court martial. But why hasn't Esperon dignified the charges with his autograph? As a result, he has in his hands a court martial convened under his authority, but which now finds itself impotent to impose its authority.

This is a failure of command, and only serves to further divide an already divided Armed Forces. Esperon must move fast to restore the credibility of the institutions of military justice.

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The crisis of cash politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THOUGHTFUL EXPOSÉ OF THE DISTRIBUTION of cash basically at the presidential palace at the end of a day-long meeting with legislators and local government executives casts new light on the everlasting system of Philippine politics. In this early years of the nation's politics, the top officials of the land commanded enough awe and respect to be able to whip their followers into line without having to purchase their loyalty. This was either moral ascendancy was a key ingredient of political legitimacy and moral pressure was unobtrusively generated against evasion. So much has changed in the succeeding years.

The reasons why one's basic integrity and accountabilities, which characterized the behavior of our early politicians, has been replaced by the ubiquitous machine-made political capital—party machinery, funds, media popularity and political networks. A decade ago, of 46 persons, Pedro Bitz's most recent finding for President Macapagal-Arroyo would have compelled a decision. Quezon, Magsaysay or a Garcia to consider stepping down from the presidency for more, more than solid performance, late in the history of the Filipino public's valuation of their political leaders. What this is low, nothing that a president expects about the state of the country seems any amount.

The fact that Mr. Arroyo has seen it fit not to say anything at all about the payroll scandal is her showing down the intensive which shows, as a result, has made in the present political system. From one's perception, this is indeed cause for despair. But, looking it in objectively, the cash distribution at Malacañang provides interesting signs of the transition that the political system is undergoing. The system appears to obviously support in its own paradox, unable to manage the expectations it has brought upon itself.

The resources at the disposal of any leader, more the centralized the better. Hence, control basically of their open economic, commercial and executive. Of these three, the most favored and the most effective is one's power power. Historically powers power has involved chaotic complexities. Executive power, in contrast, only bends subjective compliance. On the other hand, executive power brings no discretion or remedial compliance. What leaders basically rely on, in normative power, recurring to remuneration and coercion only sparingly. But the more illegitimate a leader is perceived to be, the more that leader would be inclined to depend heavily on remuneration and coercion to maintain power. This kind of power, by its nature, is most dread.

If Mr. Arroyo were confident about her grip on the presidency, it is doubtful if she would deploy the kind of powers she has lately been using. Why would she dole out cash to political allies who produce color on her side? She might grant favors, but she would not want to appear to do it this way. Basically buying political support—unless she is still fighting for survival—is not encouraging symptom.

Because of this, it is hard to imagine how Mr. Arroyo's regime can avoid the fate of the despised Marcos regime. It is hasty to survive until 2010, it will be only by default. The object of no one's love, but this universe it seems is one reason will not be able to totally erase in even of storm and expect to stay in office forever. The results of the 2007 senatorial election gave us a foretaste of this.

And a contemporary solution to sustain the middle Mr. Arroyo is today the most visible symbol of a decadent political system, does not lend to win any political contenders. One thing is a whole set of ingoing politicians have no capacity in the presidency, and nothing more or less on the same term

ed resources—cash, charisma and connections. Even the enlightened among them appear unprepared to go against the stalwart of patronage in which the whole nation is steeped.

What's for the least that? I believe the most interesting changes are unfolding at the local level. New leaders like Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio are showing the way. He is busy on dismantling the structures of patronage in his home province. And he has done this by simply denying the arch one of the paramount tasks of politicians. When he took over as governor, the first thing he did was to clean up the system of collecting fees from the ubiquitous operations in the province. The result is dramatic: without raising query fees, he collected in three months the equivalent of more than the entire amount collected in four years under the preceding administration. In contrast to previous practice, these funds are officially and equitably disbursed among the various municipal and barangay units for specific purposes. The channeling of the resources through the provincial treasurer's office has institutionalized all expenditures and audited. So one gets a chance to play the role of patron.

But lo and behold—the masses of the province recently demanded greater control over quarrying, something they were customarily dropping under pressure from contractors who they were getting a pittance. The provincial board instantly complied and passed Ordinance No. 174, effectively taking away from the governor the powers to supervise the use of heavy equipment and to be the ultimate judge of the municipal and provincial associations of quarry operators. It is the old system gasping for life. It will take more than one reformist governor to overturn patronage politics. But this resistance is unabating, and it cannot be reversed. It is to search of more governors champions, and it is good to look to the politics of the newly elected that respect capacities to see if there has been an initiation of breakdown.

• • •

(comments or public@mail.com)

Citizens must play their part in tax administration

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE DIRIGIBLE, IN THE '30S, WAS VERY often called Lutz Zeppelin (no relation to him, or something to that effect). This was so because it was the only one to date that was going through with the idea of a dirigible. Now, there's another one, a dirigible one. But recently I heard that we are being compared to Italy—the similarity being not only that in both have very large informal sectors but mostly that—like our primary tasks: I assume no point was that Italy has a parliamentary system, and we have both managed to do well economically. We're getting up in the world!

It was still far, double, to see how we can do that, one month; but, at look at the analyses of multilateral institutions like the World Bank, we tend to be encouraged. Take the latest Philippine Development Update (PDU) of the World Bank. There are the encouraging 6.7 percent growth for the first half of 2007 and the 6.1 to 6.2 percent growth rate for 2008. Apparently, these assumptions don't have the same kind of qualms about fiscal deficits and macroeconomics of growth rates that some local analysts do.

Even the Bank describes our economic outlook as maintaining broad-based growth underpinned by very strong consumer confidence and remittance flows. More importantly, the Bank acknowledges that the investment outlook is picking up—encouraged presumably by the growth of primary spending (government spending less interest payments) which, as now "Expenditure items, especially capital outlays, are set to pick up in the economy, provided the money is being channeled to productive and growth related areas." (emphasis mine). Which means, as far as I can understand, the government had better avoid projects like the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX)—given their allegedly inflated costs.

World Bank's remarks are positively glowing. But, of course, one has to take these with a grain of salt. (Much Bank notes also positively glowing about the good times of South Korea and Thailand just before they collapsed in the late '90s.), so is table about "the highest revenue growth [collections] in the last three years" and the "strong revenue performance" of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC). Especially noteworthy is the BIR's collection growth of 19.5 percent in the first half of 2007 (which is the highest in the last three years), and the BOC's collection growth of 15.2 percent (which is the highest in the last five years).

Now, I am not sure that I am as impressed as the World Bank is with these numbers. Let me explain why.

The BIR's collection growth of 19.5 percent is impressive, but it is not the highest in the last three years. The highest was in 2005, when the BIR's collection growth was 20.1 percent. The BOC's collection growth of 15.2 percent is impressive, but it is not the highest in the last five years. The highest was in 2004, when the BOC's collection growth was 16.2 percent. Moreover, the BIR's collection growth of 19.5 percent is below the 20.1 percent growth in 2005, and the BOC's collection growth of 15.2 percent is below the 16.2 percent growth in 2004. This is not a good sign.

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Multiple images of poverty

THE CURRENT FACE OF PHILIPPINE POVERTY is that of Julie Marianne Amper, from Mt.a, Sarao City, only 11 years old, who apparently died last June 6 "with no hand on her. [...] 2007, leaving behind an exquisite diary revealing her intense yet resigned feelings about her family's lot. (To live, 15, the Grade City autopsy report said that she had been severely abused and must have suffered for two days in the middle.)

Marianne Amper's face and words could have been the final impetus for the administration's formation of an "Anti-Hunger Task Force" which met on June 7, with President Macapagal-Arroyo ordering the budget secretary to release P1.10 billion for anti-hunger projects of the various task force members. The next day, however, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said "I mean it all." Yap, secretary-general of the hunger-mitigation body that the Department of Agriculture recently supervised (in turn Bureau of Agricultural Statistics' August 2006 national survey estimate that 1.8 percent of households suffered from hunger, and 9.6 percent of households suffered from hunger may be due.) It do not have high expectations about this current DSWD attempt at fighting hunger.

Marianne's story brings to mind the image of Mang Pandoy, the poor man (Felipe Serrano) who became famous in the early 1990's presidential campaign for offering to have himself killed (for a charge for P100,000 so he gives to his family.

When Mang Pandoy came on the scene. 31 years ago, many political leaders made ready-made use of his image as a poor man who was willing to make enough to make a dent in the fight against poverty. If media are truly concerned into serious, from the story of Marianne's agonizing brain-tumor fight-poverty, find you, these memories stop—though hopefully they will not—lead to fresh humanness.

But even at the risk of renewed frustration, one must continue the fight, and do whatever one can. The way we poverty-watchers see much, to think of the model. Readers must keep up their advocacy.

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

Without mass votes, unless mass desires are.

Since politicians are good at making promises, they should sometimes making them; even promise-making serves a social function. Suppose citizens are convinced of the impossibility of keeping promises from the previous orders? Besides, those who actually keep their promises will surely be appreciated.

Social scientists must continue their work, which requires doing the measurements that provide social accountability. But we do not think polling must appreciate the superior capacity of leadership images like those of Mang Pandoy and Secretary Amper to capture hearts and minds. Indeed, even outright heroes—witness Bush's "bold" and "right"—can be more powerful than thoroughly documented latency.

Be not deceived by smiling faces. The fact that poor Filipinos smile a lot doesn't mean that they don't suffer from deprivation. It only means that they don't want to be happy themselves, despite their suffering. To begrudge happiness to the poor serves no useful purpose I can see.

The last time that Social Weather Stations surveyed happiness, which was in November 2006, 83 percent of Filipino households were happy (39 percent very happy and only 17 percent said they were Not Happy, and only 17 percent said they were Not very/fine in 40 happy.

The national proportion of households suffering involuntary hunger was already a very high 19 percent at that time, or some 3.3 million families. A national total of 17.6 million households. Of the 3.3 million, 1.6 million suffered moderately (hungry) not more than a few times) and about 700,000 suffered severely (hungry almost always).

The national hunger of 19 percent in November 2006 was the average of 14 percent in households with Very Happy adult members, 25 percent in those with Fairly Happy adults, 31 percent in those with Not Very Happy adults, and 35 percent in those with Not At All Happy adults. Happiness is inversely related to hunger, but it does not exclude hunger.

The category of severely hungry covered an estimated 670,000 households. Its size did were 180,000 who were somewhere Very happy, and in the other were 50,000 who were Not At All Happy. The 50,000 Not At All happy were even, poor: 40,000 of the 50,000 were hungry and 14,000 were severely.

Perhaps, in this group of 50,000 households, representing both the worst hunger and the least happiness, there was a single, sensitive, troubled, and articulate child who, by reading her life out of existence, impressed upon Filipino people (much more than any statistics could).

* * *

World Peak. Congratulations to—took champion Darryl Peach of England and runner-up Jayson Valdez of Ilocos Norte for their victories in the 2007 Philippine World Pool Championship. Peach had been awarded second in his original group of eight in the first round. Games made history as the first non-ended player to ever reach the final of this event.

Considering current winnings in the knockout events, England, a long shot with only four entrants, won $124,000, and the Philippines, a favorite with 15 entrants, won $63,000, according for each of the top finishers

Heartless people around GMA

LETTERS

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (GMA) blasted "pessimists and groups without future and end" for the mounting poverty in the country. She did it at a meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. (Inquirer, 11/14/07)

GMA might have forgotten that she and her political acceptees are among those heartless and soulless inhabitants of this nation. The Arroyo administration lacks the political will to curb corruption and scandals. Corruption is the main reason why the poor remain poor and those in power become rich. Hence, the people who are involved in corruption and scandals are members of her social and political cliques.

Most of our local executives are just puppets, all words. The real power is under the agendas of lunchtime and coffee people, it would do her well to first practice what she preaches before she utters those words in front of a camera.

—CARLITO B. BIDA
Villocon West,
Batangas City 4200

Field officers used as 'shock absorbers' for Comelec's failure

THE DEFECTIVE vote-counting machines of the Commission on Elections have been branded as evil by those who served as board of election officers (many of those machines in the just concluded election-related hostages and kidnappings for human shields. Media have paraded into the Oct. 29 elections, but they have yet to mention the humanitarian due diligence duties.

Last May, a day before the automated and local elections, the election officers—except for some perhaps—were given half of their honoraria. A day after, they received the other half. Their bones were weary and tired, but they were happy for they were paid immediately. This is not the case today. Media, the pen is already outrageously loud. Inquirer, (n-d) (www.inquirer.com)

Mr. commissioners with the election affairs. We respect their rights to be fully paid, especially which all the news going around this money by the hundreds of thousands of pesos, has been distributed to congressmen and local officials by respective teams. Given this situation, a student is very puzzled to note for a well-deserved compensation.

But they are waiting up the wrong tree—the field officers of the Comelec are just as poor as they are. Those Comelec officials cannot even sell the machine where to inquire, if only to appease their anger. They are now the "shock absorbers" for the failure of their superiors. The high-ranking officials of the Comelec should save them from that predicament.

—ANTONIA SUCAMAN(M),
tonysuc@yahoo.com

Not to blame for Marianne's death

I WAS OFFERED TO READ THE SUICIDE note of Marianne Ampey's death ("We are all to blame for her death," Inquirer, 11/8/07), which referred to "the moral issues connected to some of the country's religious leaders." The story ravaged a queue: "Our only the government, but ministers we are all to blame for the fate of a 11-year-old girl in Devon, who took her own life because she was poor."

Excuse me, but I am neither overcome with guilt or shame or stricken with remorse. I am sure I am not alone in this way. I am not guilty of driving a young child to her death, as do not lay blame on me. Do not take me on a guilt trip. If there is a moral issue here, it is a lesson for a President and her economic planners who like to make a hope of economic growth rates and ignore the fact that the incidence of hunger has been increasing, that the number of desperate people climbing hillsteeds or building their shelters homage because they couldn't find a job is increasing more frequent, and that 81.8 percent of the country's population still survives on $1 a day and another 45.2 percent [illegible] with less than $2 daily.

I am not guilty of stealing from the national welfare or squandering promises resources [illegible] have gone to social services spending), and therefore, I am not guilty of causing underground hunger, malnutrition and even starvation. So the law will use I am also to blame for the abuse and life of Marianne.

I am not guilty because it is not my personal failure that Marianne lived in poverty and died because of it, so do not I am somehow responsible for her death.

It is irresponsible, tasteless even to suppose that we are all to blame for what happened. It is offensive that the suicide published such a despicable view side by side with the story about the government's [illegible] and shows a child. The message should have solicited other people's reactions and statements, instead of sending for a lawyer, rumored view, somehow statement that might concede put things in perspective.

—JANE C. FELLOWES,
134-B Sampaguita St.,
Barangay Horseshoe, Quezon City

Marianne's suicide: turn rage into action

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY SADNESS OVER Marianne Ampey's death. It saddened me more to read that a public official brushed off Marianne's suicide as an "isolated" case. (Inquirer, 11/8/07)

I am a volunteer "street educator" for street children as well as for children in need of special protection.

The "public official" referred to in the news report is wrong. There are a lot of children within this vicinity, who face much worse of a future. The details of even one of them leave me [illegible].

We pray that the indignation over Marianne's death would translate into action, otherwise, we would all remain part of the problem. We pray that our collective indignation would open a lot of "eyes" and move others to support programs for our marginalized children. We pray that the Church leaders would go beyond words. After all, "a Christian is a social church."

—LINA MIGUEL UY,
Linawa Id Adnan Foundation,
Diliman, Quezon City

DENR in wrong hands

IN NUEVA VIZCAYA, ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Lito Atienza said that we are poor because we don't know how to make wise use of our natural resources. (Inquirer, 10/27/07) Coming from a mestizo taipan of Presidente Ramon Magsaysay and from someone who finds nothing wrong with the plunderous of millions of pesos in "cash gifts" to governors and mayors last Oct. 11 in Malacañang, these words are hard to believe.

When government projects are tainted with bribery, it's easy to guess who (else) benefits from the mining of our mineral resources. A poor country desperately eliding itself to huge-scale mining and logging is no any different from hungry natives selling their vital organs to rich foreigners. The tremendous beneficiaries of Atienza's are the local politicians.

The little income that a few community earns from logging or mining services is not enough to fix the damage done to the environment. The community becomes the poor (one who has sold a kidney).

In its Oct. 10 issue, the Inquirer reported a massive fish kill off the coast of Sagay. Already a hole to the shining operations of Lafarge Inc. A friend, a professor from the National Institute of Geological Sciences at UP Diliman, was part of a group that examined specimens that investigated, more than a year ago, the mining operations in Sagay. The committee strongly recommended the closure of the mines, while calling closer to disregard to the environmental issues.

It is difficult to trust the government's open door policy on mining when the ever juicy post of environment secretary is occupied by someone who sees nothing wrong with payoffs.

—MERCEDES BATUIS,
261 Magsaysay St.,
UP Village, Quezon City

Morally reprehensible

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE LETTER "SOME abolition won't make good economic, social sense." (Inquirer, 11/9/07)

The question is not whether the National Bilibid's benefits forward. The NBA unfairly benefits some. But as when can't it serve to factor the cost of keeping the NBA since the price of $0b this, would we be paying a lower price for imported rice? I doubt it. It is also morally reprehensible that the consumers are forced to subsidize, through their taxes, rice producers.

In sum, if consumers were given the choice, they would buy cheaper rice. Or wouldn't they? Or would they rather pay more to help the farmers? And why shouldn't they? Consumers should have the right to do what they want with their money (rightfully earn. This is the essence of the free market that the WTO criticizes.

You don't have to eat every rice that's the right to [illegible] to buy/sell whatever from to whomever they want, or it morally agreed upon. Without being forced or defrauded or do so, then [illegible] advocates simply think they have a right to a dumb livelihood that overrides a consumer's right to choose.

The issue we have to resolve then "Is] rice tax a limited use of P34 per kilo and may end up with a selling price higher than P50 per kilo. Then why don't we just remove all trade barriers to free if local rice is apparently cheaper? Isn't it made for evaluation?

—MARIO DIAZ,
56 Bonifacio St.,
[illegible], Quezon City

INQUIRER Visayas

Comfort camp for children with cancer

By Carla P Gomez
Reporter/City

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND CAMP has brought children with cancer to Negros Occidental and those with parents afflicted by the disease together to share their fears, find support and rediscover fun.

The Inspirasi Camp at Maryfarm was held in Talisay City on Nov. 5-8 with 60 children from the five provinces participating. Dr. Marvin Mercurio, who co-directed the camp with Millie Rilloraza, said:

Although camps of children with cancer had been set up in the past, it is important to also involve children who have parents with cancer because nobody is really taking care of their pain, said Mercurio, a consultant in Child Development and chair of the Kapisanan ng Mga E.N.T. Pilipinas.

If a mother has cancer, the father is preoccupied with caring for her and the children are left out, she said. The parents think they are too young to be involved with what is happening.

By making the children aware of the disease, they will overcome the feeling of helplessness, develop strength so they can move on, and know it is all right to have fun, Dr. Estrella Aguirre, chair of the University of Philippines Department of Family Life and Child Development and one of the assistant camp directors, said.

The camp also helps them become more sensitive that they are not alone, Aguirre said.

Usually children bring through cancer on told by their friends in school to be strong, but at the camp, the people there must allow them to cry and express their fears, she said.

When Inspirasi Camp was founded, a steward Jolly Ann Aguilar, 27, of Bago City wept on the first day, and camp volunteers took some time to ease her into sharing what was troubling her.

Aguilar, whose father is a farmer, was crying because her mother Michaela, 46, has breast cancer and they do not have the money for her chemotherapy.

"I mean my mother is gone will but we do not know the means to help her," he said.

For so long, she has kept her worries to herself. She was glad to be able to cry and tell others at the camp how she feels, Aguilar said.

The camp nurse, Sky Lake Rodriguez, 14, who has leukemia, wrote: "When you cry I have you, you are prepared to give up and not everything, and to suffer and endure every single pain that comes your way when you start living that person."

Fun and wishes

The camp participants were brought to the Ellacuriz ranch farm in Silay City, an interactive museum that enables children to learn about animal life and the preservation of the environment.

It was a rare chance for them to put their worries aside and be children again.

Lovely Mingoy, 12, of Bacolod City, said his mother had had cancer for a year and his wish was for her to be happy. Being at the camp was a treat, he said, because it meant not having to carry heavy cans of water for a couple of days.

Joel Bendoy, 9, who has had leukemia since 2002, said he was still undergoing chemotherapy.

Bendoy, a son of a welder from Barangay Mandalagan in Bacolod told the volunteers that his wish was to eat lechon (roasted pig). In Negros City, his first lot up when volunteers had him to the lechon he wanted for lunch.

Cancer patient Stanton Bendoy, 8, said his wish was to go to Lopez's Kiel Center, a mall in Bacolod, as camp volunteer Millie Lopez promised to take him there.

Mrs Angela Wolfers, 39, said her cancer had recurred after three years and she had just gone through chemotherapy, but she was happy to be at the camp. "It is fun. I like to go places," she said.

Assumption Class '85 alumnae set up a Christmas tree and gave snowmen as a surprise for the children at Maryfarm on the night of Nov. 9. They also gave the children presents and danced with them.

The children's wards and wishes are so simple that it does not take much to make them happy, Dr. Alvin Pacardo, a Bacolod pediatrician and one of the assistant directors, said.

He said the camp was a start, but support groups would have to be created to carry on the work.

"I am so grateful they gave Bienvenido three days of happiness. It was a treat for her. I could never give so my own," a grandmother of 8-year-old camp participant Fernando Bendoy said.

The woman has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer for two years now. She took Bendoy into her care when the girl's family fell apart when she was 6 years old.

Dampsthat's mother, Rolly Ann, is a sidewalk vendor in Alubang, Silay-Dumaka, and could not afford to take care of Bienvenido and her younger brother after her husband sold their house and was eventually jailed.

Faith and a piggy bank

For one participant, a lot of faith and a little boy's piggy bank were what saved her life when she was 3 years old.

Janice Hisay fought as was diagnosed in 1998 to have acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), a type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow where blood cells are made.

Her father Jesus, who was a servant there in Puerk Refinghos, Barangay Bacolod, Bacolod, and mother Mary Ann, who works as a teller of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. in Bacolod, spent her last money to their strong faith in God, her courage and a little boy's sacrifice.

Janice's treatment would require at least half a million pesos, but her parents did not have that much money.

Dindo Ortizo, an officemate of Mary Ann, came to work one day with a piggy bank full of coins. Her son Bentley Ortizo, 7, had given up his entire savings of P200 to help Janice.

The act of kindness triggered a chain reaction, with officemates contributing a little while another came up with a poster asking for help for Janice and found it to other PLDT branches all over the country. Contributions started coming in.

PLDT Bacolod assistant operations manager Rene Lescano was one of Janice's patients to Mat Lago, a PLDT vice president, who informed them PLDT Chair Antonio Cojuangco and his wife Cristina would be additionally offered to pay for all of Janice's medical expenses.

Janice underwent chemotherapy and she was cancer-free at the age of 8 years.

Stanton is now 13 years old and is Grade 6 honor student and declared at the Regional Children's Center. She is no longer bald and frail. For her years now, she has been cancer-free.

Volunteers lauded

Also lending their expertise to the camp were Dr. Rabel Melgar of the Department of Psychology of the Silliman de Manila University, and intensive care at Lilibeth Cordova, one of the assistant directors.

They said they were inspired and touched by the spirit of volunteerism at Inspirasi. The volunteers are overflowing and there is popular political will, they said.

Inspirasi Camp 1 is the first of a series of activities being organized for children affected by cancer, Rilloraza said.

"Those who gave their time, talent and resources toward the fulfillment of the camp objectives are signatories of the true love of God manifested into human experience," she said.

The camp was funded by donations from firms and individuals. It is still accepting donations and Rilloraza can be reached at inspirasi@yahoo.com.

HUGGED! Janice Pia Mae Bayaca, left, explains the pains of a fish to the camp participants.

'By making the children aware of the disease, they will overcome the feeling of helplessness, develop strength so they can move on, and know it is all right to have fun'

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TAÑON STRAIT is home to dolphins that could disappear when oil exploration in the area starts.

Oil exploration in Tañon watched

By Alex Pal
Dumaguete City

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE keeping a tight watch on the Department of Energy's oil exploration drilling in Tañon Strait that was supposed to start this week.

The drilling was to take place on board a floating oiling vessel was towed to the site, about three kilometers off the coast of Bulgan-an and Pinamungajan towns in Cebu. Those areas are directly across La Libertad and Jimalalud towns in Negros Oriental.

But the scientists feared the possible harm that the noise of underwater blasting would have on sea creatures.

Two weeks ago, about 150 marine scientists who met in Bohol passed a resolution opposing any oil exploration activity in Tañon Strait, citing the vessel's unique biodiversity as a protected seascape.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes defended the project in a forum with environmentalists, stakeholders and their counterparts for Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex), at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City on Nov. 8.

Silliman University president Dr. Ben Malayang III accompanied a battery of scientists, legal experts and theologians to the dialogue.

Reyes said the exploratory drilling for oil in the strait would start on Nov. 15. He said this date was set about two or three years ago. "This is something that you don't decide on overnight," he said, as he allayed fears that the welfare of the fishermen and the environment would be ignored.

Insisting that nothing could be done by anyone to stop the exploratory drillings pending exhaustive environmental studies, Malayang offered the expertise of scientists from SU to monitor the water quality and behavior of cetaceans, or marine mammals, while the drilling would continue for two months.

Aside from the formation of a multipartite monitoring team, lawyer Mikhail Lee Montes, director of the Initiatives Center for Law and Development based in ISU, had also demanded that Japex set up an Environmental Guarantee Fund to immediately address possible problems that may arise from the operations.

Reyes, however, clarified that this activity is be carried out by Japex for two months is only limited to oil exploration.

"This is not commercial drilling yet. If oil is found in Tañon Strait and its quantity is sufficient and declared extractable, it would need a full-blown environmental study and a law from Congress," he said.

Malayang also pointed out the need to put a value on the present resources found in the strait, which may be very vital in determining whether actual commercial oil drilling will be feasible.

"We might be jeopardizing the vital resources for an unknown commodity," he said.

Across the NATION

Most 'kotong' cops new, says PNP exec

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—ONLY 80, OR ONE percent, of 8,000 policemen in Central Luzon are involved in extortion (kotong) and most of them are neophyte cops with ranks of Police Officer 1 or 2, the regional police chief said.

"Because they're new, they need training and discipline in keeping their finances. They have the propensity to indulge to captivate like buying television sets, firearms and engaging in 'good time,'" said Chief Supt. Isidro Ebio, Central Luzon police director.

"Kotong," he said, happens when a policeman tries to collect money from violators by stop-and-frisk operations, checkpoints or simply pinning him of having no position to use his cellphone.

Ebio said extortion is practiced by even those with higher ranks.

He said the authorities can punish, launched by the national police headquarters early this week, would pounce on police men regardless of the amount they try to illicit.

"The punishment is not based on the rank. The intention [of extortion] is the same so they would all be treated administrative action by the regional staff investigation unit," he said.

Incident sources in the public transport sector doubted if the campaign would succeed.

"Reporting extortion would not be easy because we risk the lives of persons in authority" a transport leader in Pampanga said.

He said police have got their daily kotong from transport groups from a regular share from fines.

Some of them found Pen's estimate of the number of "kotong cops" to be very low or unrealistic.

To track down those erring cops, Ebio's office has formed "honesty teams" at the regional, provincial and city levels.

On top of receiving text phones through Ebio's mobile phone, the police have asked the public to send reports of extortion by text message to 2920 to 2929 during the campaign period.

Surveillance teams have been set to entrap erring policemen.

"The policemen are not above the law. Their orientation should be to protect and serve communities, not become the oppressors," Ebio said.

The salaries of policemen are, by now, comparable to that of teachers, he said.

Those with ranks of PO1 get P8,805; PO2, P10,655; PO3, P11,949; Senior Police Officer 1, P13,427; SPO2, P14,931; SPO3, P16,595; SPO4, P17,810; Inspector, P20,167; Senior Inspector, P20,974; Chief Inspector, P21,834; Superintendent, P29,903; Senior Superintendent, P35,953; Chief Superintendent, P229,890; Director, P32,835; Deputy Director General, P37,310; and Senior General, P37,500.

"It's a matter of spending what you can afford to spend. Money would not be enough if you have vices. Your income must match your lifestyle," Ebio said. Rosella Ovejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

FATIGUE

Fatigue sets in as one of several dozen from Bamban, Bulakan who are marching in Manila on a nearly 2,000-km trek to repair what they said was their ancestral land that was sold to a private firm. This member of the group takes a rest by the roadside on the Mabalacat-Highway in Pilar, Bataan.

Napocor owes Zambales towns P619M in taxes

IBA, ZAMBALES—THE NATIONAL Power Corp. (Napocor) has yet to pay P619.3 million worth of taxes to the Zambales and five municipal governments that local officials fear could derail the privatization of the 600-megawatt Masinloc Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant (MCFTPP).

Jerry Dalejaro, consultant to the Office of the Governor, said Napocor has not been paying taxes to the provincial and local governments for the past five years, dating to the supposed takeover of the Masinloc Power Partners Co. Ltd. (MPPCL) next month.

Part of Napocor debt represents six years of unpaid franchise tax covering 2002 to 2007 computed at P2.01 million while business tax dues imposed by the Masinloc local government has a total cost of at least P295.3 million from 1999, Dalejaro said.

He said the Napocor tax dues were brought up during the actual on-site inventory by his group, the MPPCL, and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) last month.

He said the applied Engineering System (AES) found in that inventory that one of the plant's governing units was not functioning.

The MPPCL is a subsidiary company of AES, a multinational company based in Arlington, Virginia in the United States that won the bidding for the Masinloc coal plant for P930 million on July 26 this year.

Nilo Madrid, Masinloc plant manager, said the Napocor would remit some units from its coal power revenues over the years.

Losing the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), Madrid said Napocor is relieved from all tax dues it owed local governments.

"They can go to court if they want to," he added. Inquirer Central Luzon

Polls fail to fill East Visayas youth council seats

By Jess A. Gatdula
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A MANGUlotang Kabataan chair without contested incumbents or an SK council without a chair.

Those were the cases noted by the Commission on Elections in different parts of Eastern Visayas as it assessed the results of the region-wide results of the recently concluded barangay and SK elections.

And the situation might just be the call for the abolition of the SK in the country, said Lawyer Adolfo Bañez, regional director of Comelec.

Bañez said there was a number of villages in the region that only the position for the SK chair was filled up or only the position for council were filled up. In some cases, the seven members SK councils were only half filled.

Bañez cited the case of Barangay Dolao in Marabut town of Samar where the lone candidate for SK chair, Ariel Rosario, won with no votes but has no councilors to help treasury SK affairs in his barangay.

In Biliran's provincial capital of Naval, six can and won for council seats but they have no SK chair. The SK chair is supposed to sit in the barangay council as ex-officio members, representing the youth.

"The island province of Biliran, composed of eight municipalities, has 7,387 registered SK voters.

Bañez said based on information he received from election officers in the region, "this situation is also indicative in other towns in Samar."

The region has more than 300,000 registered SK voters.

In Tacloban City, a similar situation was seen in Barangay 97 where only four SK candidates and won for SK council seats with no one filing a certificate of candidacy for SK chairmanship.

All 63 regional execs of the village was their votes.

Joseph Mideo Cabalitz, regional communications officer of the Department of Interior and Local Government, said he could not comment as the DILG has yet to come up with guidelines on how to deal with the absence of an SK chair or SK council members in a barangay.

"But one thing sure is, the barangay chair cannot appoint anybody to fill up the vacant positions," Cabalitz said.

Ma. Lourdes Bimadlum, city elections officer, said that an elected SK chair without any councilors can still discharge his duties.

"The still represents the SK in the village," she said.

Bañez said that lack of interest among the youth to participate was cited as the main reason only few ran in the Dec. 29 SK elections.

At 46 chair cases, among other benefits, as honorarium and civil service eligibility, Bañez said.

A MAN holds on to his three-month-old son as he casts his vote for barangay and youth council officials. While voter turnout for the elections was high, many youth council positions in various parts of the country are without candidates.

Loren given 'tukwifi' title by Cordillera women leaders

BAGUIO—Loren Legarda brushed aside talks about her political plans but a gathering of Cordillera women leaders here on Thursday did the talking for her.

Officials of the Cordillera Indigenous Elected Women (cordiwe) League (Cordiwel) did not mince words in adopting Legarda as honorary Cordiwel member when which they said was also meant to prop her presidential bid.

Legarda was given the Igorot name "Tukwifi" or "bright star" of the Cordillera in rites at the Benguet State University.

Itek Mayor Concepcion Bubas, Cordiwel president, said Legarda's "bring an epitome of a woman leader."

Bubas later said if Legarda decides to pursue her presidential ambition, the region's elected indigenous women leaders would support her.

Asked why, she told the reporters: "Because she is a woman and a mother."

But Legarda refused to be categorical about her political plans.

"I will not be shy about it," she later told reporters in a press conference.

"I think there is something about women's leaders that we can provide not only competence but also compassion to public service," she said.

However, Legarda said it was still too early to discuss the 2010 elections.

"Politics of 2010 can wait," she said.

Endorsementary Josephine Bonsingcor, of the Office of the Political Advisor, said Legarda would be the confidante of the Cordillera's indigenous elected women leaders.

"That's why we adopted her as honorary member of our organization," she said. Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A PORTION of the new Bacolod Airport in Silay City.

New Bacolod airport open next month

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE NEW Bacolod-Silay Airport is expected to open by December, a Department of Transportation and Communications official said yesterday.

The old airport in Bacolod City will close a day after the opening of the new airport, according to Director Felipe Blanquisil, head of the DOTC airport special projects.

But the exact date of the new airport's opening would depend on President Macapagal-Arroyo's schedule, Blanquisil said in a dialogue with Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon.

Mr. Arroyo is to inaugurate the project.

The new airport in Silay City has a runway length of 2 km and will be able to accommodate Airbus 320 planes that carry more than 180 passengers. The current airport can only accommodate Airbus 320 that can carry 148 to 160 passengers.

The new airport was declared for domestic flights and it would be up to the Air Transportation Office and the Civil Aeronautics Board if it could be used for international flights, Blanquisil said.

A plan to extend the runway by 500 meters is in place, he said.

Flight tests on the new airport have been completed and one of the requirements for its opening is the international publication of all data about the new airport, including location and coordinates, he said.

The ATO is now preparing the data for publication.

The McKinley Road in Silay City which leads to the new airport, is being widened.

Late SPORTS

Welcoat upsets M'nolia

Express ruin 'Spark' return

By Marvin R. Castillo

WELCOAT BROUGHT ANOTHER HEAVYweight to its knees last night and won back-to-back games for the first time in its PBA existence, running out on top of an old-fashioned shootout against Magnolia, 93-83, in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup eliminations.

The Dragons blew a 17-point third quarter lead and had to rally from eight down in the final seven minutes before pounding out the win, sticking sniped to a 126-125 upset of fifth 'N Tour last weekend.

And even then that, it put the Dragons near the middle of the 12-team pack at 3-4 while dealing the rock-solid Beverage Masters their third defeat above seven games.

"I still can't believe it," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria in Filipino.

Ali25 snapped a two-game slide and dealt Mark "The Spark" Caguioa a rude welcome as the Express came from behind to score a 102-91 victory in the second game.

Ranidel de Ocampo shot 10-of-21 in the fourth period as did 21 more to 3-4.

Caguioa saw action for the first time in seven games, shooting just six points on the Gin Kings fell to 2-5.

Aplus METRO
Editor Dave G. Diyanget

'We're not gay,' Piolo, Sam declare

ABS-CBN talents file P12-M libel suit vs Lolit Solis, editor

By Allison W. Lopez

MOVIE ACTORS PIOLO JOSE PASCUAL AND Samuel Lloyd "Sam" Milby yesterday filed a P12-million libel suit against show biz columnist Lolita "Lolit" Solis at the Manila City Prosecutor's Office, for portraying them as "gay men" in an Oct. 15 newspaper column.

In their joint complaint, Pascual and Milby named Solis and Philippine Star tabloid's entertainment editor Wenceslao Alunan as respondents in the case that allegedly bore an item in Solis' "Take It, Take It" column, where she claimed to have seen the male singers being "sweet" in the pool side coffeeshop of the Sofitel Hotel around 4 p.m. of Oct. 12.

The two talents of ABS-CBN's Star Magic were accosted by time and curious onlookers when they personally went to the Manila City Hall to attest to the authenticity of their joint affidavit around 9 a.m. yesterday.

"The story was absolutely without any factual basis. We were not at Sofitel Hotel on Oct. 12, 2007. We were not even together on the said date," the two said in an unclarified and belittled portion of their joint complaint.

In their complaint, Pascual and Milby said they were "outraged" when they learned about Solis' article.

Apart from being a complete lie, it contained words and phrases sufficient to leave in the minds of the readers that we are gay men engaged in a romantic dalliance, an imputation which seriously damaged our reputation as bankable actors," they said.

Also cited in the complaint was the publication that was allegedly made by Solis' article titled "Frisky at Sofitel, Aubrey hating supermodel issue," and a letter demanding Solis' Inday a public retraction of her article and a public apology.

Since Solis refused to entertain a copy of Inday's demand letter, Pascual and Milby both deemed Solis' column item.

"We were not at Sofitel last Oct. 12 as the entire article is of fabrication, a concocted story," Milby said.

Solis insisted that she merely did not.

In separate statements, Pascual and Milby both deemed Solis' column item.

"We were not at Sofitel last Oct. 12 as the entire article is of fabrication, a concocted story," Milby said.

Solis insisted that she merely

PIOLO Pascual (left) and Sam Milby (right) show their joint complaint affidavit together with their lawyer Jesusbeth Alfonso in a press conference at Bayview Park Hotel.

SOLIS: They're putting her publicity

her "defamatory" statements and envisioned a "presumed apology" in her talk show in a week's work. Pascual and Milby said they decided to sue her for libel in order to clear their names.

Throughout did not directly see the term "gay men" in her article, the complainants said the words and phrases that she used—like "hahaha," "sweet," and "bahu magkaakbay sa isa ang mga pero-g," were sufficient to make the readers understand that they were male.

The five elements of libel, they claimed, were present in Solis' case: that it was defamatory; made publicly malicious; directed at a natural or juridical person, and tends to cause dishonor, discredit or contempt of the person referred.

Being celebrities or "public figures," said Pascual and Milby did not give Solis a "blanket license" to rummage into their private lives and malign their reputations.

By publishing the story, they said Solis were equally liable for libel under Article 360 of the Revised Penal Code.

The two pushed vindictive sought P5 million each in moral damages due to the "untold anguish, humiliation, reputation and social humiliation" caused by the article and P1 million each for exemplary damages.

Lolit Solis won't retract, stands by her story

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AFTER ACTORS PIOLO PASCUAL and Sam Milby filed a libel suit against her yesterday, columnist Lolit Solis remained unperturbed and TV host Lolit Solis remained unperturbed.

In a phone interview with the Inquirer yesterday, she reiterated that she was standing by her story, which stems out in her column "Take It, Take It" in the Oct. 15 issue of the tabloid Philippine Star Ngayon.

In her column, Solis reported that she saw the two actors in the poolside coffeeshop of Hotel Sofitel on Oct. 12.

"I was there with my two sons," she asserted. "I'm sorry if I hurt their feelings, but I stand behind my story."

She dismissed allegations that she didn't actually witness the incident and that it was only related to her by a friend.

"It would be easy for me to invent it if it were based on hearsay. But I'm sure about what I saw," she said.

In separate statements, Pascual and Milby both denied Solis' column item.

"We were not at Sofitel last Oct. 12 as the entire article is of fabrication, a concocted story," Milby said.

Solis insisted that she merely

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Police nab suspect in Las Piñas court killings

By DJ Yap

THE MAN SUSPECTED OF shooting his wife and her lawyer dead inside a Las Piñas City courtroom on Thursday was arrested by the police after midnight yesterday during a manhunt operation in Tagaig City.

Operatives of the Las Piñas City Police nabbed Roberto Toledo in a house in Signal Village at 12:45 a.m., several hours after he allegedly shot his wife Lolita, who had filed a case for the annulment of their marriage, and her lawyer Roberto Bunal.

Senior Insp. Jaz Jake Trilli, chief of the city police station investigation division, said Toledo, 53, did not resist arrest but opted to keep silent while waiting for his lawyer.

"He refused to be subjected to a paraffin test and said he would wait for his counsel before answering the investigators' questions," Trilli said.

On Thursday morning, Toledo allegedly entered the courtroom of Judge Jesulito Villanueva of the Las Piñas Regional Trial Court Branch 199 and suddenly shot the two women with a handgun while they were waiting for the hearing to start.

In the commotion after the shooting, the suspect slipped past the crowd and managed to escape, investigators said.

The police were initially clueless as to the gunman's identity until eyewitnesses, including a court stenographer, positively identified Toledo as the gunman after they were shown his photos.

Lolita Toledo, 51, and Bunal were shot in the head and died while they were being wheeled at the University of Perpetual Help Medical Center.

Villanueva's courtroom is located near the health center at the City Hall compound. It is temporarily separated from other branches which are located in the Hall of Justice building which is under renovation.

Guards were posted at the entrance in the City Hall compound, and a bailiff, who was supposed to be guarding court room "at his way" to the courtroom when the shooting occurred, the police said.

As of yesterday it remained unclear how the suspect was able to bring a weapon inside the compound without being detected.

Senior Supt. Amando Empino, chief of the Las Piñas police, earlier explained that before anyone could enter the courtrooms, they would have to pass a room where members of Villanueva's staff hold office.

The staff members said the police that the suspect even exchanged pleasantries with them before going inside the courtrooms. Suddenly, two shots rang out, and the man ran past them.

Lolit...

» From page A-19

said that the two actors were "neighborhoods [subspotting to mate before]."

"I'm wondering why Dido and Sam are on upset when previous artistes that have been written about them are far worse," she said.

"It's not the right defense. Are because previous stories are bad doesn't give you license to do the same," concurred Ad Alonzar, Philstar.com editor. Shibby Lumawag, along with Lizel Buenviaje and Priscilla Supnad.

"We are using because our dignity and integrity have been assailed ... She has disrespected us as colleagues and human beings and she only sang hell to ensure this respect is through the courts of law," Pascual said.

Dido said the two actors' legal action didn't catch her by surprise.

"Even if I had apologized or retracted my story they would still push through with the case. As a public figure, I am used to getting unreasonably in the news. As we say in show biz, good or bad publicity is still publicity. Dido has a concern. Sam has a concern. They're getting free publicity because of this case," Dido explained. "They are the ones benefiting from the scandal. Not me. Why am I being ill-ing the case only now when previous stories about them had been worse?"

"That is not true. If she retracted, Dido and Sam wouldn't have pursued [the case]," Alonzar said.

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2	20% interest in various machinery and equipment in Lemery Plant	Metro Batangas Cluster City	₱ 5,150,000
3	288 sq.m. land and a transportation	Cluster Avenue cor. Ma. Elena St., Central Public Land Bldg. District, QC	₱ 4,612,000
4	Parking Space Unit #1, 12 sq.m.	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
5	Parking Space Unit #2, 12 sq.m.	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
6	Parking Space Unit #3, 12 sq.m.	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
7	Parking Space Unit #4, 12 sq.m.	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
8	Parking Space Unit #5, 12 sq.m.	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
9	Parking Space Unit #6, 12 sq.m.	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
10	Parking Space Unit #7, 12 sq.m.	Washington Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
11	Parking Space Unit #8, 12 sq.m.	Washington Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
12	Parking Space Unit #9, 12 sq.m.	Washington Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	₱ 360,000
13	Retail Condo Premium House 8F, Unit 801	8F Mercedes Court, Northway Bldg., Novaliches	₱ 1,134,000
14	Retail Condo Premium House 8F, Unit 802	8F Mercedes Court, Northway Bldg., Novaliches	₱ 1,134,000
15	Retail Condo Premium House 8F, Unit 803	8F Mercedes Court, Northway Bldg., Novaliches	₱ 1,134,000
16	Land Subject BIR Ruling 026-1999	Mexico, Pampanga	₱ 810,000
Lump Lot	Land 1,000 Industrial Lot for Re-sale	Metropolitan Tel, Makati	₱ 110,000
Lump Lot	Land 1,000 Industrial Lot for re-sale	Intramuros, Manila	₱ 140,000

For items Nos. 1 to 3, detailed terms and conditions with the 40% minimum bid may be secured at Management's Check with the amount by the Special Assets Department (SPAD), 6/F Filinvest Landmark Plaza, Makati. Martha cruz Gonzalez-Tan, Jr. (SAD) - Tel. nos. 891-6040 to 44 loc. 6181 and 6182.

In case of CLOSED / CLUSTERED TOP BIDS (defined as having the approved highest bid which is exclusive of 50% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be witnessed immediately by an open meeting of bidders or authorized persons from said bid together with 50% of the highest bid may participate. The successful bidder shall be required to pay the balance within seven (7) working days from the date of award. The minimum bid for properties at ₱10,000.00 and above shall be subject to 5% withholding tax.

Time and Requirements will be available at the Special Assets Dept. (SAD) Mktg. on Tuesday, November 27, 2007.

Terms and Conditions will be held on November 27, 2007, 2:00p.m. at the 6/F Pre-Conference Room, Landbank Plaza, Makati. Tel. nos. 891-6040 to 44 loc. 6181 and 6182.

For Item Nos. 13-17, public bidding will be held by LBP Leasing Corp., at its office at the 15/F Tiuco, 259 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati. Tel. nos. 845-7000 to 09 loc. 7015.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties as well as the legal status of the said properties prior to bid time. The sale of the properties shall be on "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without making deductions from the bid. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) ruling.

For more information, please visit or call the SPAD at telephone no. 891-6040 locals 6044, 6181, 6182, 6183, 6184.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PSI) November 17, 2007

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines and trustee named here on Dec. 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., 7/F Dona S. Ecleo Conference Lounge of the DBP Head Office, Dela Cruz Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

Lot/Unit No.	Description	Area (sq.m.)	Location	Minimum Bid
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 01				
LA UNION	Residential lot, CCT No. T-13823 with bldg. & imp.	150	Br. 33 Sangguniang Bayan Compound, Brgy. 1, Bauang, La Union, Region 1	₱ 1,500,000.00
LA UNION	Industrial lot, CCT Nos. T-27427, T-27428, T-27429, T-27430, T-27431, T-27432, T-27433, with 7 bldgs. & various appls. and of an automotive shop	10,000	Brgy. Sevilla, Bauang, La Union	₱ 30,000,000.00
PANGASINAN	Industrial Subdivision lot, CCT Nos. T-27434, T-27435, T-27436, T-27437, T-27438, T-27439, T-27440, T-27441, T-27442, T-27443, T-27444, T-27445, T-27446, T-27447, T-27448, T-27449, T-27450, T-27451, T-27452, T-27453, T-27454, T-27455, T-27456, T-27457, T-27458, T-27459, T-27460, T-27461, T-27462, T-27463, T-27464, T-27465, T-27466, T-27467, T-27468, T-27469, T-27470, T-27471, T-27472, T-27473,

Koreas reach ambitious reconciliation deal

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—North and South Korea reached an ambitious deal Friday to breathe fresh life into peace efforts—marking regular cross-border visits and new transmission projects—amid concerns nuclear disarmament by Pyongyang of the South changes political course in next month's presidential vote.

The agreement between the prime ministers of the two sides was a fleshed-out version of a wide-ranging accord struck at an October summit between South Korean leader Kim Jong Il and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

Seoul committed to start building shipyards and repairing a highway and a railroad in the impoverished North near pear in exchange for Pyongyang's agreement to begin regular cross-border cargo train service next month for the first time in half a century.

The North also agreed to turn the area around the Kaesong industrial zone into a border area "peace and cooperation zone" next year by establishing a joint fishing ground and a special economic zone on shore nearby.

Analysts said the agreements were positive, but raised concern they could face hurdles in implementation coming just months before President Roh's administration leaves office in February.

Conservative opposition candidates who take a more critical view of the North Korean regime are leading opinion polls ahead of the Dec. 19 presidential vote.

"Implementation is more important than an agreement," said Baek Seung-joo, a North Korea expert at Seoul's state-run Korea Institute for Defense Analyses. "We've had so many cases in the past where agreements were reached, but not kept."

Baek said the deal's fate depends on who will become the South's next president, how the North's security situation develops, and how the international standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear programs is resolved.

In the worst case, this week's agreement could even hurt ties between the two countries rather than improve them, Baek said. If a new conservative president tries to revise the deal, said Yang Moo-jin, professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

"The agreement could rather deepen distrust unless carried out," said Yang.

Since their first ever summit in 2000, the Koreas have moved in set, sizzle-by-sizzle of summitry and diametrically increased economic ties to the point that the South is the North's No. 2 trading partner behind its nominal ally China.

South Korean President Roh expressed satisfaction with Friday's agreement, saying economic cooperation is the "best means" to advance unification.

Unless are realize an economically equal relationship, the road to reunification cannot but be very slow," Roh told the North Korean delegation at a lunch he hosted in the presidential Blue House.

South Korean leader Kim Jong Il is firmly committed to carrying out the summit accord that he has said "should not end up an empty piece of paper," Prime Minister Han Seung-Soo told Roh.

AP

Clinton shores up lead in debate

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—Hillary Clinton seemed her Democratic White House rivals of "throwing mud" Thursday, apparently shoring up her stature as front runner in every debate, after a string of recent setbacks.

Top challengers Barack Obama and John Edwards tried hard to inflict further damage on the former first lady's previously unchallenged campaign, but took shaky corners blows themselves as the candidates in gambling-paradise Las Vegas.

"When somebody starts throwing mud at least we can hope it is accurate and not right out of the Republican playbook," Clinton said, taking the wise swerting an adviser pointed to stand off fiery attacks by her rivals.

And she also rejected claims that she had played the "gender card" after her aides had appeared to suggest that she had been attacked in a previous debate because she was a woman.

"I'm just trying to play the winning card ... I understand, very well, that people are not attacking me because I'm a woman. They're attacking me because I'm ahead," she quipped before the second heated party nominating contest, the fiercest encounter in Iowa, where the candidates are running neck and neck.

Obama, hitting high after attacking Clinton's health care plan in town on Saturday, tried to [illegible] Clinton in the debate's [illegible] exchange.

"What the American people are looking for right now is straight answers to tough questions, that is not always her instinct or her practice Clinton," Obama charged.

Later, he charged Clinton, who leads national Democratic polls and key state surveys, with being deceptive, and accused her of sounding like a Republican candidate.

"This is the kind of thing I would expect from Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani when we start playing with numbers to make a point," he said, in an argument with her on immigration.

But Clinton, throughout the two-hour clash, stressed her experience, to suggest Obama was not properly prepared to serve in the Oval Office.

"It is important that we have a president that is not just a perspective who is ready to lead from day-one," she said, in the debate to the fast-growing western state of Nevada, which holds its own Democratic caucuses on Jan. 19.

Throughout the debate, Clinton appeared more relaxed than her previous showdowns with her rivals, smiling and laughing frequently. Several times, Obama and another rival John Edwards ribbed front from the audience, where they were on the attack.

Gerald Parsaganides, of the Campaign and Elections program at Fordham University, said Clinton appeared to have drawn a line under her shaky two weeks since the last debate in Philadelphia.

"Clearly Senator Clinton came prepared for battle," he said.

AFP

Ruling jolts even Saudis: 200 lashes for rape victim

RIDHEL SAUDI ARABIA—A Saudi court on Tuesday more than doubled the number of lashes that a female rape victim was sentenced to but even after her lawyer appealed the original sentence. The decision, which many lawyers found shocking even by Saudi standards of justice, has provoked a rare public debate about the treatment of women here.

The victim's lawyer, Abdul Rahman al-Lahem, a well-known human rights activist, drew the court's ire because of his strong public criticism of the handling of the case. He has called his client's conviction on just and said the sentences of her seven men who raped her were too lenient.

He is also known for his poor defense of critics of the monarchy.

The victim's name has not been released. She was 19 years old at the time of the assault.

Her case has been widely debated since she court sentenced her to 90 lashes a year ago for being in the same car as an unrelated man, even after it ruled that she had subsequently been raped. But a woman on her motivation with a man who is not her husband or a relative is a crime in Saudi Arabia.

Adding to the charged political climate of the case, the victim is a member of the Kingdom's Shiite Muslim minority.

The young woman's offense was in meeting a former boyfriend, whom she had asked to return pictures he had of her because she was afraid of many another man. The couple was sitting in a car when a group of seven men kidnapped them and raped them both, lawyers in the case told Arab News, a Saudi newspaper.

The woman and the former boyfriend were originally sentenced to 99 lashes each for being together in private, while the attackers received sentences ranging from 10 months to five years in prison, and 80 to 1,000 lashes each.

Lahem appealed the attackers' sentences, saying that they were too lenient and that the treatment of the victim was too harsh. In his new decision issued Tuesday, the court increased the victim's sentence to 200 lashes and six months in jail. It also increased the sentences of her attackers to prison terms of two to nine years.

The woman remains free in the time being and has not yet been lashed.

AFP

Russian loophole offers Putin chance of third term

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin could run for reelection in next year's presidential vote if he resigns early to get around a law on serving three consecutive terms, a lobbyist close to the Kremlin has said.

Putin has said he will step down next year and let someone else take over. His spokesperson said that has not changed. But a source with Kremlin links told Reuters the option of exploiting legal loopholes is being pushed by parts of his entourage.

Under that scenario, Putin could announce as early as this week that he is stepping down ahead of term. His prime minister, Viktor Zubkov, would become caretaker president and Putin would run in the scheduled March 2008 presidential vote.

The question of what Putin will do next is preoccupying Russians and foreign observers because he wields huge personal power in his vast, nuclear-armed country, many people see him as a guarantor of stability and he has no clear successor.

Western companies as well as foreign governments, for all their reservations about his democratic credentials, often see him as a "known quantity" with whom they can deal.

"It is quite possible for Putin to run as a candidate for the presidency in the 2008 elections," Alexander Shokhin, the head of Russia's biggest business lobby, told Russia's Izvestiya magazine this week.

"Well there is no need to change the constitution," he said. "Everyone is for law."

Russia's constitution states that "one and the same person cannot occupy the post of President of the Russian Federation for more than two consecutive terms."

Analysts have speculated Putin could sidestep this by making way for a new president and returning at the next election in 2012, or sooner if his successor does not serve a full term.

Another option is for him to step down but retain influence in another capacity, possibly as prime minister.

PUTIN

But the scenario outlined by Shokhin and others would allow Putin to remain in his old job after another year or two.

A federal law on presidential elections states that a president who leaves office before the end of term "cannot be put forward as a candidate in elections called to commission such term ceasing to exercise his powers ahead of schedule."

This is where the loophole lies. The law contains no restriction on a president running in elections which were not called as a result of his leaving office early.

If Putin steps down after the date of the presidential vote is officially announced—this is expected to happen on Nov. 16—he will be taking part in rescheduled election.

"The rule has been set to ensure a third term. From a number of options, one has been chosen that will use this loophole," said the source with links to the presidential administration.

But the source added: "Putin has not taken a final decision ... This is not being done by Putin but by his entourage. Putin himself is undecided."

A Dec. 2 parliamentary election, in which Putin is running as head of his United Russia party slate, could provide him with an opportunity to step down.

Reuters

Colonial Center of the Philippines

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Name and address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/Citizenship | Position

LEGALINK HONG KONG CO. LTD. MANILA BRANCH — Project Manager
LEGALINK HONG KONG CO. LTD. MANILA BRANCH — Marketing Manager
LEGALINK HONG KONG CO. LTD. MANILA BRANCH — Site Manager
LEGALINK HONG KONG CO. LTD. MANILA BRANCH — Site Manager
LEGALINK HONG KONG CO. LTD. MANILA BRANCH — Construction Engineer
LAN CORPORATION — Administrative Specialist/Customer Support Service Representative
LAN CORPORATION — Marketing Executive/Customer Support Service Representative
KELLOGG TECHNOLOGY INC. — Executive Operations Officer
KELLOGG TECHNOLOGY INC. — Assistant Marketing Manager
TAMEK PHIL. CONSTRUCTION INC. — Project Manager
BAYSIDE TECHNOLOGIES INC. — Customer Support Associate
LEXAS ENTERPRISES INC. — Administrative Customer Support Staff
MELCOR LEVEX CORPORATION — General Manager
LEVEL CERTIFICATION & INSPECTION GROUP PHILIPPINES INC. — General Manager
INTERNATIONAL OUTSOURCING SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES INC. — President
EGYPTBUILD LIFE TRADING INC. — Manager
ALEC WORLD VISION CENTER INC. — Manager
HRM RESOURCES PHILIPPINES INC. — Vice President for Operations

RAYMUNDO S. ALPAPARA
OIC, Regional Director

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibanez

Bhutto freed; caretaker gov't sworn in

CARETAKER PM Soomro

ISLAMABAD—PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF swore in a new caretaker government Friday to steer emergency-ruled Pakistan toward elections, hours after former premier Benazir Bhutto was freed from house arrest.

The oath-taking ceremony came as a senior EU official headed for Islamabad to press for an end to the state of emergency which the opposition says will make the polls due by early January an unfair sham.

Military ruler Musharraf hailed the previous government for stabilizing Pakistan as he swore in the interim setup, led by caretaker premier and close ally Mohammedmian Soomro.

"Today we are crossing historic hurdles. I think never has Pakistan seen such a smooth transition of government," Musharraf, dressed in a traditional black tunic instead of his army uniform, said at the ceremony.

He'll remain dissolved at midnight on Thursday after completing a five-year term for the first time in the nuclear-armed nation's turbulent history.

"I take pride in the fact that, having a man in uniform, I introduced the concept of democracy," he added.

Musharraf has promised legislative elections by Jan. 9, but opposition leaders are considering a boycott and there is growing international anger at his refusal to end the state of emergency he imposed on Nov. 3.

Rivals earlier, authorities withdrew a seven-day detention order on Bhutto, who has been holed up behind barbed wire at an aide's house in Lahore since Tuesday.

"The detention order has been withdrawn but normal police security will stay with her," said Bhutto Nevan, home secretary of Punjab province, adding that Bhutto was detained to protect her from the threat of suicide bombings.

A leading member of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party said security forces were still around the house.

"We are free from detention but the barbed wire and police are still out there," Sen. Safdar Abbasi said.

AFP

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Reyes ousts** Orcollo; RP teener topples big guns / A25

SPORTS

Editor Tedoljo S. Matsunaga Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Delosa

- **Bonds** faces 30 years for perjury /A26

Harbour fights to regain stride

MAGNOLIA'S Dacca Seigle pins ex-Welcoat's defense for a layup in yesterday's PBA game won by the Dragons, 93-83, at the Cuneta Astrodome. Story in Late Sports on A18.

By Jasmine N. Payo

HARBOUR CENTRE SEES OUT TO regain momentum versus San Mig Coffee, while Mail and More Rights in matter further up against Sweetlets Energy Drink in today's PBA action.

Still steaming from their first loss, Batang Pier will vie to keep second spot in the VCo Extreme Energy 10mh Cup at 2 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan.

Mail and More coach Allan Gregorio, meanwhile, said he's confident about his Gunners' 4 p.m. assignment after they managed to log two straight victories following a dismal 0-5 start.

"We are getting better," said Gregorio. "We are taking things one game at a time and not thinking of any postseason standings."

The Gunners, hamstrung by Ildot Mon and Marcy Arellano, have hit their stride the past two weeks with triumphs over Sweetlets Bakmak, 83-79, and Pharex, 73-64.

"Our first three losses, we can attribute to the motor not having pulled yet," said Gregorio.

Batang Pier continued its drone consistent performances from 10-km guard Jokmen Menzola, TY Tang and Jiaro Malesbaire, but unfortunately got tripped by Hapee which snapped their four-game winning run by snowshoes, 77-76, last Saturday.

The loss shoved the three-time champions down to second at 4-1, behind the Complete Protectors, the only unbeaten squad after five assignments.

>HARBOUR, A23

Lascuña, Pagunsan in joint 39th

Pucay, Casas 1 shot off Thai leader

Mt. Makiling girl sinks 'em

Tiny tanker splashes way to 4 golds

By Jane Navarro

Harbour fights to . . .

Highlands ladies virtual WGAP champs

UV parades 6-11 Fil-Am today; Archers out of it

SPORTSWATCH

Sharp Korean tandem gains Holcim ITF tennis semifinals

UGBA staglest: 100 fighters up

Big Pasig derbies slated

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR
MUNICIPALITY OF SUGPON

INVITATION TO BID

Reyes ousts Orcollo; RP teener topples big guns

By Marlon Bernardino, Lead Writer

SUMAGUETE CITY—EFREN "BATA" REYES flashed vintage form to oust compatriot Dennis Orcollo, 9-3, with a near-perfect game Thursday night and lead the Filipino charge in the Tegrow Dynasty International 9-Ball Championships at the Sumaguete Convention Center here.

After winning the leg, the 53-year-old Reyes, top player of Predet Sports, blazed to an early 6-1 lead and was never threatened in the race to 9, shortrun break stands.

In a magnificent, if anti-climactic wind-up, Reyes, who advanced from the losers' bracket, watched Orcollo suffer a dry break in the 12th rack before clearing up for a 9-3 win.

The tournament features some of the world's best, including a total of nine World Pool champions headed by Reyes, Alex Pagulayan, Ronnie Alcano, Johnny Archer of the United States, Ralf Souquet and Thorsten Hohmann of Germany Mo Chia-sheng of Chinese Taipei, Ruslikho Fakshudov of Japan and Mika Immonen of Finland.

Reyes suffered a lone scratch in the 11th rack that gave Orcollo a chance to slice the lead at 8-3.

Shutting the limelight with Reyes were booster Jeth-Jeth Linares of Negros, Rillard Hadrit who answered opening upsets over heavyweights Suzuki Or of Japan, 9-7, and Wu, 9-2.

The tournament winner pocket $20,000 with the runner-up getting $10,000. The losing semifinalists receive $5,000 each.

Europeans No.1 Konstantin Stepanov of Russia disposed of 2006 WPC champ Mauric, 9-2, in the losers' side, before scoring a come from behind 9-7 victory over Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, who beat Reyes, 9-2, in the opening round last Wednesday, got a scintillating 7-1 lead but got stuck at 7 racks with two unanswered wins.

The matches will be aired over Solar Sports Nov. 22-29.

EFREN 'Bata' Reyes fires his shot against Dennis Orcollo in yesterday's featured match.

Top young karters in crucial battles

THE COUNTRY'S UP-AND-COMING KARTERS gear up for their rarest oriental battle today in the championship round of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit in Cavite.

Jeff Racing skipper Jose Beatrice and Tuason Racing #228 karter Jory Orduna will have their hands full against equally talented rivals.

The 13-year-old Beatrice, who heads the race for the 50-K Junior circuit with 415 points, expects a tough battle against Tuason Racing #285's Ruby Bersales and Aiko Timoftiu, as well as Cebu Racing Group's Patrick Eustaquio.

Bersales is armed with 337 while Eustaquio, who won the last leg at Rosenland, and Timoftiu closely trails with 330 and 346, respectively.

Orduna holds sway in the Mini ROK class where he leads with 460 points, five his title bid remains at 4th with Tuason Carnival Ike Lobo Racing Group and Tuason Racing of Jeff Racing right behind with 394 and 348, respectively.

Sabal tipped to regain Milo crown

CRISENCIO SABAL IS HEAVILY FAVORED TO regain the Milo Marathon crown for most two years ago when the 31st edition of the foot race holds to grand finale ceremonies starting at the Quirino Grandstand.

Sabal, who set a course record of two hours, 21 minutes and 33 seconds in 2005, failed to defend his title last year when he suffered muscle cramps halfway in the 42.195 kilometer race.

Sabal faces lighter competition with the absence of veterans Eduardo Buenavista and 2006 winner Julius Semenya.

Buenavista missed Sabal's record during the Metro Manila destination race last July 22 with a clocking of 2:18:03. But he and Semenya will miss this year's preparation for the 240-SEA Games next month.

Fellow SEA Games bets Allan Ballesteros, Boy Vener and two-time women's champion Jho-ro Bantang will likewise skip Sunday's race.

Sabal will meet likely encounter stiff challenge from Rodolfo Nandico, Bernardo Omantiki, Manuelo Corpus, Rogelio Garcinitos, Rolando Hanowarc, Reynaldo Dela Reyes, Cirilo Bacolod Balagan, Jerry Lindawan, Jessel Langcauka and Abraham Barrance Jr.

The distaff side will be a tight race among 2004 champion Emelu Munoz Diaz, Aileen Valentino, Florderliza Cameron, Marisel Magallan, Ellen Tolentino, Susana Agana, Marlita Arba and Cecile Ilarde Tapia.

Trophies and more than P700,000 in prize money will be given away including P75,000 each for the marathon king and queen.

FITNESS gurs Jio Sarsi (center), Milo Marathon national race organizer Rob Biscocho and Manila AVP and Milo executive Ian Ignacio flexes for Sports Frame. Per Sarsing says he's set to show everybody that his comeback is the proper way of running, avoiding injuries and developing speed during the carbo-loading party at the North Greenhills Clubhouse Thursday night.

Tigresses, Lady Falcons thwart rivals

By Ronnie S. Asuncion

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND SAN Sebastian College held on to the lead with victories over their respective rivals yesterday at the start of the semifinal round of the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

UST labored through five sets before subduing Adamson University, 22-25, 25-18, 17-25, 26-24, 15-10, while San Sebastian had an easier time disposing of Mapua, 25-11, 25-17, 25-19, as they improved their records to 7-1.

Ateneo is still in third spot at 5-3 while Adamson remained in fourth place at 4-4.

The Tigresses, the first conference champions, went to Venus Bernal, Mary Jean Balse and guest player Suzanne Gonzales, who combined for 44 points.

San Sebastian's Thai import Jarwan Buatoe outshined fellow Filipina Lithawi Kneesaw, making 31 points.

[illegible]	5	
[illegible]	7	1
[illegible]	7	1
[illegible]	5	4
[illegible]	5	4
[illegible]	4	4
[illegible]	3	4

Marho Breeders Cup dangles P7M

A PRIZE POT OF MORE THAN P7 MILLION is at stake when local horse racing's finest horses vie in the 13th Metropolitan Association of the Race Horse Owners, Inc. (Marho) Breeders' Cup Championship Day Sunday at the Manila Turf Club.

An divisional races are on tap with the P3 million, 3,050-meter Sen Miguel Classic for older horses the pregnant's championship race.

Empire King, the undefeated 3yoc, leads the San Miguel field.

The 1PO and Juvenile races and a Sprint Race will also be held during the festival.

The Smart 1PO Colts race will be disputed over the mile with horses Juvenile champion Mr. Magic tipped as the favorite over six others.

In the 2PO Fillies race, a grudge match between Ex Twenty-Six and Frustrated Ach is expected, also over 1,600 meters, with the winner going home with P1 million.

The Juvenile races over 1,200 meters carry prize money of P1 million each. MOR Castillo

A-Rod, Yanks discussing $275-million deal

NEW YORK—ALEX RODRIGUEZ AND THE NEW YORK YANKEES WERE agreed to the outline of a record $275-million, 10-year contract. The deal would potentially allow him to earn millions more if his extra-base homerun records AP

SPORTS

Beckham returns to England

FOXBORO, MASSACHUSETTS—DAVID BECKHAM WILL RETURN TO THE ENGLAND team for its friendly against Austria on Friday after a knee injury. It will be the LA Galaxy star's 58th international match for England, which is almost certain to enter next year's Euro 2008 finals as one of Europe's AP

Bonds faces 30 years for perjury

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY Bonds, Major League baseball's home run king, was indicted for perjury and obstruction of justice on Thursday and could go to prison instead of the Hall of Fame for telling a federal grand jury he did not knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs.

The indictment, culminating a four-year investigation into doping by elite U.S. athletes, charged Bonds with four counts of perjury and one of obstruction of justice. If convicted, he could be sentenced to a maximum of 30 years in prison.

After the indictment, Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, was ordered released after spending most of the past year in prison for refusing to testify against his friend.

In Miami, where the 43-year-old Bonds passed Hank Aaron to become the MLB career home run leader, he flatly rejected any suggestion that the milestone was stained by steroids.

"This record is not tainted at all. At all. Period," Bonds said.

Bonds finished the year with 762 homers, seven more than Aaron, and is currently a free agent. AP

GAME! Bonds to resume again

Mavericks outlast Spurs; Suns score

DALLAS—THE DALLAS MAvericks defeated the San Antonio Spurs, 130-92, in an early season showdown of two NBA heavyweights on Thursday.

But despite the big Western Conference victory the Mavericks were not reading too much into the win.

"We can make a little statement, but it doesn't mean much," Devin Harris said. "We look to make a statement to the playoffs."

Josh Howard scored 23 points for the Mavericks.

In Phoenix, Leandro Barbosa scored 22 points, including 6-of-7 on 3s, and Grant Hill added 24 points as the Suns beat the Chicago Bulls, 112-102. AP, Reuters

BUSINESS

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BOP surplus hits all-time high

Jan-Oct record reaches $7.85B on strong inflows

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A record balance-of-payments surplus of $7.85 billion in the first 10 months of the year on the back of strong foreign investments and remittance inflows, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

In October alone, the BOP surplus totalled $1.19 billion, reversing the $95-million deficit posted in September.

The overall surplus for the 10-month period dwarfed the $3.8 billion surplus in the same period last year, and exceeded the $6.3-billion target for the full year.

"The BOP has continued to register a strong surplus on account of sustained foreign exchange inflows coming from overseas Filipino remittances, merchandise exports, net inflows of foreign direct and portfolio investments and investment income of the BSP," said Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the local economy and the rest of the world. Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation or debt servicing, is a deficit item in the BOP, while that which gives rise to a receipt, like borrowing, exporting or remitting funds, is shown as a surplus item.

Because of the strong BOP surplus, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the peso would likely remain strong against the US dollar.

The country's strong external position since the start of the year has fueled the peso's appreciation by more than 11 percent since the start of the year, making the local currency the best performing denomination in developing Asia.

Monthly remittances flowing into the country have exceeded the $1-billion mark since May 2006. Based on the BSP's latest da-

BOP SURPLUS, B2

Fitch remains upbeat on RP economy

ALTHOUGH GLOBAL CREDIT WATCHDOG Fitch Ratings is upbeat on the Philippines' growth prospects for this year and the next, it is still worried about the government's collection shortfall, which may affect the country's strong economic momentum.

Fitch Ratings' senior director and head of Asia sovereign ratings James MacCormack told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Economic Society conference yesterday that the country could post an average gross domestic product growth of 7 percent this year.

Despite a widely expected global economic slowdown next year, MacCormack said a 6-percent Philippine GDP growth would still be viable.

The country's GDP grew at 7.2 percent in the first half of 2007—the highest among the middle-income countries of Southeast Asia.

The Philippines was able to attain its highest economic growth in 28 years due to the government's improved spending on infrastructure, an external payments surplus, falling interest rates, recovering financial markets and strong consumption fueled by remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

But Fitch, which rates the government's credit at two notches below investment grade and is the most optimistic among the three major global rating agencies, is still disappointed over the revenue shortfalls despite the country's strong economic performance in the first half of the year.

Standard & Poor's rates sovereign credit at three notches below investment grade, while Moody's rating is the most pessimistic at four notches below investment grade.

"We were surprised at how weak revenues were in the first half," MacCormack said. "If the economy grows fast and tax revenues don't, that's strained."

He noted that, in the case of China, revenue growth was even stronger than the rate of economic expansion.

"Our administration is deeply but to improve

FITCH, B3

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Gov't corporate income tax take up in 9 months /B2
■ Oil firms told to justify price hikes /B3
■ MWCI asks for hike in water rates /B8

Gov't corporate income tax take up in 9 months

Higher business earnings, increased tax rate

By Michaela V. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT'S INCOME tax collection from corporate taxpayers registered a double-digit increase in January to September due to higher company earnings and the increase in the tax rate from 32 percent to 35 percent.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue said its corporate income tax collection reached P178.25 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 18.47 percent from P145.7 billion in the same period last year and exceeding by 2.2 percent the tax goal of P166.59 billion for the period.

The increase in the corporate income tax rate, which took effect in November last year, was provided for in the Value-Added Tax Reform (RP0E) Law, which also expanded the coverage of the tax.

Finance officials said the increase in the corporate income tax collection was further boosted by higher corporate earnings.

The strong rollout of portfolio and foreign direct investment subscribing from the improved perception on the Philippine economy, which grew by an average of 7.1 percent in the first half of the year, were credited by government's economic managers for the improved income-generation performance of the corporate sector.

BIR data showed that of the total corporate income tax collection in the first three quarters, P83.76 billion represented the companies' own liabilities, while the remaining P94.49 billion was accounted for by income taxes withheld by these corporate taxpayers. The Tax Code requires large taxpayers to withhold portion of the tax liabilities on their suppliers' income.

Despite the higher-than-target collection of corporate income tax in the first nine months, the BIR still fell short of its total tax collection target for the period.

The Department of Finance, another agency of the BIR, earlier reported that the BIR's total tax collection stood at P821.9 billion in January to September, short P45 billion short of its goal of P866.9 billion.

The shortfall was recorded for other tax types, including excise taxes on ex-products, the DBS said.

The BIR, whose full-year collection target was set at P955.9 billion, was tasked to implement measures to tighten its audit function and plug leakages in revenue collection. The tax collection agency was also told to update its taxpayers' database to improve taxpayer-income tax rates.

Pure Foods net up 171% to P967M

Ginebra's 9-mo profit down 8.8% to P325.6M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

LIQUOR FIRM GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL INC. said its net income in the first nine months of the year slipped 8.8 percent to P325.63 million from P357.13 million in the same period last year due mainly to higher marketing and fixed operational expenses.

Total expenses in the nine months, however, showed a 27.4 percent jump in net income to P94.41 million from P25.2 million in the same months last year.

Efforts to increase the number of directly served outlets and to maintain product presentation and availability resulted in a 79 percent increase in the company's selling and marketing expenses to P1.17 billion in the nine-month period from P673 million a year ago.

In its financial report to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), GSMI said that while fixed operational expenses rose during the nine-month period, interest and financing charges fell 62 percent to P.897 million from prior-year level. This was attributed to the reduction in investment-to-sidelines and interest rates which freed up funds for debt payments.

In the third quarter, interest expenses were also down by 60 percent to P21.16 million from P67.15 million in the same period last year.

Net sales in the nine-month period grew slightly by 2.3 percent to P1.49 billion from P1.46 billion. Third quarter sales volume rose 6 percent during the period.

Sales volume of GSMI's flagship gin increased by 16 percent, as a result of aggressive marketing programs and better selling and distribution strategies.

Cost of sales in the first nine months hit P7.080 billion, almost the same as the P7.080 billion a year ago. In the third quarter, cost of sales was lower at P2.14 billion than the P2.405 billion in the same quarter last year.

Gross profit in the first nine months rose 8 percent to P2.4 billion, said by 39 percent in the third quarter. Elizabeth S. Lazaro

Gov't losing P4.7B in revenue due to oil smuggling

THE GOVERNMENT LOST ABOUT P4.7 billion in potential revenues in the first seven months of the year due to oil smuggling, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

Teves said the robust performance of the economy should have meant higher consumption of oil, but official records showed a decline to the volume of imported crude.

"Then uncollected revenue could have gone into financing vital infrastructure and social services needed by our people," Teves said in a speech that was delivered on his behalf by Undersecretary Gamaliel Napoleon Montemayor today during the meeting of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association.

Teves said some oil-sector individuals had been encouraged to engage in oil smuggling due to the rising oil prices.

The Philippines is a target of oil smugglers because the commodity is not subsidized by the government.

He noted that oil imports fell 1.2 percent to 7.248 million tons in January to July from 7.335 million tons a year ago.

"This drop in import volume is anomalous, this considering that there is higher demand for oil when an economy is growing this speed [growth]," Teves said. Michaela V. Ramos

Trans-Asia to get partners

By Abigail L. Ho

LISTED FIRM TRANS-ASIA OIL and Energy Development Corp. has signed three separate agreements with Hinode Petroleum Philippines Ltd. and Mitsubishi Oil, giving them an option to acquire stakes in various petroleum blocks in Palawan.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Trans-Asia vice president for exploration Raymundo Reyno Jr. said the three option agreements covered Service Contract 14 Tara Prospect Area, SC 14 Hinode and SC 6B, to which Trans-Asia had shares.

Under the option agreements, he said the Trade Petroleum-Weatherford joint venture would conduct due diligence on the contract areas over a three-month period, which could be extended to up to six months.

"Before the end of the aforementioned option period, the joint venture may exercise its option to acquire 70-percent participating interest in any or all of the blocks, in exchange for turning Trans-Asia and other original consortium partners in all expenditures up to production of first oil," he said.

The option agreements have been signed with Mitsubishi Philippines Ltd. and Weatherford Int'l

Rival Philcomsat groups jostle to tighten hold on sequestered telco

By Dwin L. Luza

THE GOVERNMENT-LED LOCSIN-Soliman group has classified a number of its nominees to several positions to receive the concentration of the books of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

In the same time, rival private shareholders of its parent firm, Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint corporate governance nominees to represent the government's 35-percent stake in the telecommunications firm when it holds its shareholders' meeting on June 19.

This will be the first such meeting to be attended by the government's nominees since 2000.

In a statement, Philcomsat shareholders led by Ulbinda Baldoza appealed to the President to appoint nominees who will work together with the private shareholders representing 65 percent of the company to rehabilitate and "restore the viability of the once premier company in the telecommunications industry."

Baldoza pointed out that the track record of PCGG nominees has been "marred with fraudulent corporate and banking transactions."

Amid these changes, the government nominees in the controversial firm's board elevated their desire to determine the true state of the group's finances.

"We want to know how the company's funds were spent and if there is any accountability, we want to know who is responsible for what," said PHC chairperson Concepcion Palileo.

According to the government-led side, it launched its search for a new auditing firm since its previous auditor could no longer serve the company "after it was sued by the Ramos-Africa group which is trying to take over the whole Philcomsat group."

The Ramos-Africa group controls PGC's creditor firm, PSTC and Philcomsat.

They added that their rivals have refused to have the parent firm audited since they assumed control in 2000.

She added that when the Ramos-Africa group took over PSTC and Philcomsat, both of which are sequestered for ill-gotten wealth cases, the firm had P4 billion in assets and P1.4 billion in cash and near cash assets.

Oil firms told to justify price hikes

By Abigail L. Ho

AS WORLD OIL PRICES CONtinue to soar, the Department of Energy has ordered local oil firms to justify the pump-price increases they implemented in the past weeks.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said he has ordered local oil companies to submit their corresponding position papers with regard to the recent price adjustments.

"We have to be sure (about the price increases). It is my job to see to it that these increases are reasonable. There is a task force composed of the DOE and the Department of Justice) that can look into the reasonableness of pricing," he said.

Since the downstream oil market was deregulated, he said it was difficult for anyone to specu-

late on oil prices and it was also impossible for the government to intervene with pricing decisions as long as these were reasonable.

"What we can do as provided by the Oil Deregulation Law is whenever there is reason to believe that a price increase is unreasonable, we will look into it and have a dialogue with the oil companies to examine the reasonableness of their increase," he said.

Reyes said he has done that. He notices them already and they are going to submit their position papers to explain the price increases," he added.

He said it was important for the government to mitigate the impact of rising world oil prices on local pump prices as this could prompt the public transport sector to hold up fares.

Reyes said he is obvious the impact of high oil prices on public utility vehicles, he said, was a more intensive campaign to ad the users of calendar—as out at line—vehicles and of "footing" at convenience stops.

Reyes also proposed to cut tariffs on crude and petroleum products—one of the ways that government could intervene with pricing at the pump—had already been junked.

"The reality of the situation is that if you reduce the tariff by 1 (percentage point), it would result in a reduction in government revenue by P450 million a month. I don't would only result in the reduction of the price of gasoline by 23 centavos a liter. The President has instructed us to look at other ways of addressing this problem," he said.

Another scheme being proposed was the implementation of a two-tiered pricing mechanism, which would offer petroleum products at lower prices to public utility vehicles and at higher prices to private consumers.

"With the two-tiered system, the problem is the implementation," he explained. Whenever you have schemes like this, it's subject to abuse. So you have to look at the mechanics of how to implement it."

DOE junks proposal to reduce tariffs on petroleum products

Consumers oppose Transco privatization

AN ALLIANCE OF ELECTRIcity consumers is opposing the transfer of the control and maintenance of National Transmission Corp. to the private sector, saying this may cause consumers more harm than good in the long run.

In a statement, the 40-organization Coalition Consumers said binding on the right to operate and maintain the national transmission grid "poses a threat to national security as well as the economy."

"We can be held hostage by profit-driven private companies in order to collect their demand. The winning bidder of Transco would be holding the entire economy and the entire country and has the power to turn it off at will," the group warned.

Four groups remain in the race for the right to maintain, operate and expand Transco.

Qualified to participate in the final bidding on Dec. 12 are the consortium of Alsons Consolidated Resources Corp. and State Grid Corp. of China, the group of Two Rivers Pacific Holdings Corp. and Tenaga Pete Electricite Nasionale Bhd., the joint venture between San Miguel Energy Corp. and JG Summit Holdings Inc. and Transco Holdings Inc. and the partnership between Citicic Holdings Inc. and Hopewell Holdings Ltd.

Power Sector Assets and Management Corp. president Jose Ibazeta said prospective investors had requested that the final technical and financial bids for the transmission be kept "private."

This means PSALM will not allow anyone outside of the bidding groups and no-shareknot government representatives to be present on the date of the submission and opening of the offers. "For a company which earns P15 billion yearly and provides the connection between generation and distribution, there is no much public interest at stake that Transco bidding should not be done behind closed doors," Kathleen Consumers spokesperson Ma. G. Hechanova said.

Abigail L. Ho

Taiwanese firm sinks in $500M for power ventures

By Rowena W. Domingo

TAIWANESE FIRM FOR-mosa Heavy Industries Corp. is investing at least $500 million in Philippine power projects, as its parent firm engages in a massive effort to expand worldwide.

Minister of Economic Affairs Yohn Hsiu Huey-Long Chen, who is on an official visit to the Philippines, said FHI's foray in Cebu and Iloilo was also part of Taiwan's drive to further develop cross-border investments and partnerships between independent power producers.

Chen says speaking at the sidelines of the 20th Joint Meeting of the Philippine-Chinese Business Council and the Chinese-Philippines Business Council held yesterday at the InterContinental Hotel in Makati City.

Gin Shihmaoling Global Business Power Corp.—a unit of the Taiwan-based Group of Companies—announced it had signed a joint venture agreement with FHI on the development of 246 megawatts for the former's power station in Toledo City in Cebu, apart from a new 360-mW plant in Iloilo City.

FHI's Philippine ventures is part of parent firm Formosa Plastic Group's NT$190.7 billion ($$2 billion) investment commitments are for the next five years.

"The energy sector is one of the main areas that we are looking into, where opportunities to strengthen our bilateral ties would be taken," Chen said. "(On) Philippine's past experience, and I believe we could maximize that to help both our countries."

BOP surplus hits ... From page B1

to, total OFW remittances for the first nine months amounted to $10.5 billion...7% percent higher than the inflows posted in the same period last year.

The US Federal Reserve's recent interest rate cuts have also cushioned global investors' confidence to invest in emerging markets like the Philippines, resulting in stronger portfolio inflows.

But in its East Asia Pacific update, the World Bank said the emergence of large BOP inflows in several host economies...both current account surpluses and capital inflows...could bring potential economic challenges, such as domestic overheating pressures and asset bubbles, loss of competitiveness, and increased vulnerability to sudden re-

versals of capital flows.

"Such inflows place upward pressure on the exchange rate," the World Bank report said. "The trade-off that countries then face is either allowing the exchange rate to appreciate...with possible consequences on the competitiveness of exports—or intervening in the foreign exchange markets to keep the nominal exchange rate from appreciating, which may result in...a potential vulnerability of the financial sector."

But even if the central banks in the region move to temper the appreciation of their respective currencies, the World Bank said economies could still experience an appreciation of the real exchange rate arising from an increase in inflation.

Stocks drop 2%

From page B1

It was the PSEi's weakest finish since Oct. 1. The retreat on Wall Street was brought on by lingering concerns over the US economy.

The broader all-share index lost 37.72 points to 2,234.36. Declines outnumbered advances 104 to 57, while 41 stocks were steady.

Volume amounted to 3.8 billion shares worth P5.3 billion.

AP, AFP

Fitch remains ... From page B1

here, he added. "We have shown efforts but we're not seeing the results in terms of revenues."

McCormack said raising rates was not the solution to the problem was rooted on the collection side, and not on the rate system itself.

He added three major risks would continue to haunt the region—the sharp exchange rate appreciation, the possibility of a recession in the US, and higher oil prices.

"The exchange rate is something to watch out for," McCormack said. "With the dollar expected to decline well into 2008, Asian currencies will be affected. It may be difficult for economies to manage."

A strong local currency vis-a-vis the US dollar may a big help in inflation management especially for net crude importers like the Philippines. But it also hurts the export sector as well as households benefiting from overseas remittances. Doris C. Dumlao

PSBank, Balikatan enter into a Loan Portfolio Sale

In a recent landmark transaction, Balikatan Housing Finance, Inc. (Balikatan) sold the first of many tranches of performing residential mortgage loans to Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank). PSBank successfully bid for 237 residential mortgage accounts with an aggregate outstanding balance of P 122 million through a competitive and private auction held in April this year.

PSBank is the country's second largest thrift bank and has 262 branches nationwide. The Bank has been at the forefront of various product marketing campaigns and process improvements to consumer loans, which has led to its strong competitive position in the thrift bank industry. PSBank serves more than 150,000 customer accounts and is a subsidiary of Metrobank. It intends to open more branches in the near term to cater to the growing loans in order to serve communities that are outside its current reach.

Balikatan holds a portfolio of non-performing loans acquired from the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC). These loans were originated through the government's development program for affordable housing mortgages under its Unified Home Lending Program in the 1980s. The sale to PSBank reflects Balikatan's successful work-out efforts through its service provider Rehay Financial Services, Inc. or RFS, Inc.

RFS, Inc., which provides customized asset management services for Balikatan and the affordable housing sector, facilitated the auction and sale to PSBank. Upon approval by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, PSBank will utilize RFS as the management of its newly acquired portfolio.

Printing life.

CARMEN FABELLA BATE

Peacefully joined her Creator
on November 15, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her loving husband, **Celso**
children,
Noel and **Sophie**, **Carina** (†), **Ceejay**,
Louie and **Liza**, **Dino** and **Kelly**, **Swasi**,
Tomo and **Corky**, **Clarito** (†), **Mel**, and **Tina**
grandchildren,
Simon, **Cali**, **Lorenzo**, **Marco**, and **Enrico**

request the pious readers to pray for
the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio church.
Inurnment will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2007
after the 9am Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio church.

In Loving Memory

on the 4th Death Anniversary of

ATTY. FLORENCIO T. SANTOS

a loving husband, devoted father and supportive grandfather...
a friend, mentor, and colleague...

who joined his Creator on November 17, 2003.

He is survived by his wife, Atty. Natividad N. Santos

and his four children and their families:

Robert & Maria Jenny and Robbie
Cesar & Baby, Michael & Vanessa, and Dr. Mano
Vera & Engr. Ramon Morales; Vince, Ryan & Wendy, Ralph, Monica, and Michelle
Ellen & Dr. Glenn Abunda; Nicole, Bela, and Ana

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory at the following churches:

Lourdes Church, Retiro St., Q.C. 8:30am
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Ave, Q.C. ..... 6:00 am
Carmel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Gilmore, Q.C. ..... 6:00 am
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Christ, Q.C. ..... 6 am & 6 pm
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan ..... 6:15 am
Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Q.C. ..... 6 am, 7 am & 6 pm
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus, San Miguel, Manila ..... 7 am & 5 pm
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Pangasinan ..... 9:00 am
St. Patrick's Church, Mission St, San Francisco, CA ..... 12 nn
Notre Dame des Victoires, Bush St., San Francisco, CA ..... 12:15 pm
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, E. Champlain St., Fresno, CA ..... 7:30 am

Grandpa, memories of you are etched deeply in our minds and in our hearts... forever

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

Judge Jesus G. Bersamira (Ret.)

(November 5, 1935 – November 17, 2006)

It's been a year since a loving husband, a caring father and the best grandpa left this world to join his Creator. The past twelve months have been really tough coping with the loss of our beloved **Jesus (Susing)**. His memory will forever linger in our hearts and will never be forgotten. In his memory today, we will offer Holy Masses at the fi chanches:

Holy Family Parish ..... 6:00 P.M.
(Scout Tuazon, Q.C.)
Holy Trinity ..... 7:00 P.M.
(Village East Exec. Homes Cainta)
Immaculate Conception Parish ..... 6:00 A.M.
(Pasig City)
St. Joseph Shrine ..... 7:45 A.M.
(Acacia Mktd., Q.C.)
St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish ..... 6:00 P.M.
(Tahanan East Antipolo)
San Guillermo Parish ..... 6:00 A.M.
(Buting Silang)

Our Beloved

MARITES MONTES LAUS

"...absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Death Notice

JAIME ERNESTO B. BASA

The Board of Trustees, Officers and Faculty of

JOSÉ RIZAL UNIVERSITY

extend their deepest sympathies to the family of

CARMEN FABELLA BATE

Member of the Board of Trustees, Vice President and Treasurer

who passed away on November 15, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her husband, **Celso**;
her children, **Noel** and **Sophie**, **Carina** (†), **Ceejay**, **Louie** and **Liza**, **Dino** and **Kelly**, **Swasi**, **Tomo** and **Corky**, **Clarito** (†), **Mel**, and **Tina**;
her grandchildren, **Simon**, **Cali**, **Lorenzo**, **Marco**, and **Enrico**
her sister, **Virgiña**, her brother, **Armand**, and her sister-in-law **Nela**

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio church.
Inurnment will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2007
after the 9am Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio church.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Lira Cesar B. Mangoenag

8 steps to quit smoking

By Tess R. Salazar

NINETY PERCENT OF smokers know that smoking is harmful to their health. Seventy percent of all smokers like to quit. But then, after one year, only 7 percent who did quit remain smoke free. What gives?

Dr. Imelda Dee, Asia Pointe, an adviser of the Caraga for Addictions Psychiatry of the Philippines, said medical intervention is not enough to make smokers permanently kick the habit. Behavioral strategies should be prioritized.

Dr. Rolando Juan L. Tolentino Jr., president of SAPE said these behavioral strategies should cover the "before," "during" and "after" of the smoking cessation plan to make sure success is sustained.

1 Set a quit date. Smokers have to ask: What is the most meaningful date that I want to quit? Set it on a significant date such as a loved one's birthday, or maybe even Christmas Day.

2 Prior to the "quit date," you should be mentally preparing already. Tolentino cited a 70-year-old smoker who had continuously distracted his colleagues during board meetings with his persistent cough. He finally promised, one day, that he would stop smoking. The patient went into contemplation, an interpersonal transition toward change.

3 Set a limit. Smoke in only one area of your house.

The 70-year-old patient's wife, then chose only one area of the house where the husband could smoke. The designated smoking area was a smelly, dirty location outside the house. The family disposed of all the ashtrays in other parts of the house.

4 Out of sight, out of mind. What you don't see, you won't remember, you won't crave for. The visual presence of the cigarette was reduced. Cigarettes were hidden from the patient.

5 • The car is also off-limits for the smoker. Drivers are also tasked to strictly enforce this rule.

• Drinking should not be accompanied by smoking. Tolentino's patient was prohibited from smoking by his fellow board members during drinking sessions.

With these measures enforced, Tolentino related that the patient had begun to refuse significantly his cigarette use well before his quit date. This more-or-less slowly but surely done over packs a day to just one.

6 Smoking cessation medications (if ever there's a need for one) should be taken one week or two weeks before the quit date. The medication takes effect after the second week.

When the quit date starts, it is important to change routines. The example, 30 minutes after waking up and you habitually smoke in the toilet, change the routine, instead, go to take a brisk walk before going to the toilet," Tolentino advised.

7 Exercise is important for quitters. It makes them avoid gaining weight, because less irritable and more relaxed.

8 Loved ones should know, and understand the difficulty of quitting smoking, and should consequently support the patient in his or her efforts. Penio said: "If a smoker is contemplating on quitting, this is when the support group and loved ones should come in. There are many ways to help them. Remove the 'cues' which trigger cravings and urges to smoke."

She added that the support group or loved ones should also do their part in keeping a quitter remain a quitter.

Psychiatrist said there is a 35 percent success rate for long-term quitters, and much of the success can be attributed more to behavioral strategies than just medications.

No such thing as a simple cough

By Rahael B. Castillo, MD

SOMETIMES, PHYSICIANS NEED to experience what their patients go through so that can better empathize with them.

When you have in a simple viral cough, I would end up in tandem patient on the phone sometimes late into the night. My pitch was a little higher than my usual reflecting my displeasure at his waking me up in the middle of the night.

He complained of a dry hacking cough which has deprived him of sleep for several nights already. He would first shut both his kitchen then cough incessantly making him wet his pyjamas and causing his chest muscles to ache, which made him worry that he might be having another heart attack.

"Yes, you're not having a heart attack," I answered him. "Your coughing is the one causing your chest to ache."

"But don't I need antibiotics?" he asked.

"Didn't I tell you? It's a viral cough. Why antibiotics? Antibiotics is for bacteria. It is a few days and it will disappear by it self. Just drink lots of fluids," I answered, the tone of impatience quite obvious.

Medical karma

Call it medical karma because I've been experiencing this week exactly the same type of cough my patient complained about. Dry, hacking, no fever, no phlegm, still good appetite, itchy throat, sleeping-waking making me make a complete mess of my breakfast routine, chest pains due to the cough. Well, almost everything my patient had except that I don't urn my bones shows no massive bone marrow abnormality that might explain my cough. Neither do my lungs show any lung cancer, or the air pollution we have abundance of.

Definitely no antibiotics. Are the good old advice of lots of fluids and lukewarm drinks. But now I realize that citrus, or even lemon-honey-calamansi concentrate, or tea with honey and calamansi juice, or even just sliced, or just because of the acidity, irritates my throat and makes me get

WORLD DIABETES DAY

Early diagnosis crucial for adults and children

By Tess S. Sarmiento

DIABETES IS A GLOBAL epidemic with devastating human, social and economic consequences," the International Diabetes Federation stated. In fact, every 10 seconds one person dies of diabetes.

Once considered a health problem, diabetes has become for the first time a serious global health threat like infectious epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, the group claimed. The need to slow down the growing diabetes burden has pushed the United Nations to pass a resolution on diabetes in 2006.

The resolution recognizes "diabetes as a chronic, debilitating and costly disease associated with major complications that pose severe risks for families, countries and the entire world."

World Diabetes Day

In the Philippines alone there are 4.6 million adults diagnosed with diabetes in 2003, said Dr. Annas Sy Zoo of the Philippine Diabetes Association in a press briefing held last month for the World Diabetes Day.

Diabetes Day is being observed across the globe every Nov. 14 to raise public awareness on diabetes prevention and care through education and the mass media.

It was introduced by the IDF and the World Health Organization in response to the concern over the increasing number of people with diabetes around the world.

Zoo said the Philippine figure does not include teenagers and children. In fact 50 percent of those who are afflicted with diabetes are not even aware that they have it.

"Diabetes is a growing problem and is now considered as an epidemic. By 2020, there will be an estimated 300 million cases of diabetes worldwide, majority of with are coming from Asia," Sya said.

Of those who have diabetes, about 90-95 percent are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and the rest have Type 1.

According to the American Diabetes Association, in type 2 diabetes, either the body does not produce enough insulin or the hormone does not work.

Previously known as juvenile diabetes, Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in children and young adults. In this type of diabetes, the body does not produce insulin.

On the rise

Sya explained that the number of diabetes cases is on a steady rise. In 1994 it ranked 18th as cause of death in the Philippines and in 1999 it became No. 6. However, Sya said that the Philippines is still not among the countries where diabetes is generally prevalent.

She also stressed that diabetes is a curable disease but once detected early, its treatment won't be so expensive.

"Everyone should be aware of the symptoms of diabetes such as excessive desire to eat, the passing of an excessive quantity of urine, excessive thirst, unexplained weight loss, blurring of vision, weakness and nonhealing of wounds," Sya said.

According to her, among the factors which may contribute to having diabetes, are obesity, hypertension, race and ethnicity, age, family history and physical inactivity.

By age 45, one should be tested for diabetes and this should be repeated every three years. While those who have risk factors or feel any of the symptoms, they should start testing earlier.

If left untreated or undiagnosed, diabetes can lead to serious complications such as heart attack, loss of sight, renal failure and stroke.

Recommendation

She recommends that once a person is diagnosed with diabetes one should consult with an endocrinologist and ask for various treatments available. A healthy diet and proper exercise can also help regulate sugar levels.

Zoo noted that no matter how effective a medication may be, early diagnosis is very crucial for adults and children alike.

Thus, to help Filipinos become more aware of diabetes, Merck, Sharp & Dohme Pharmaceuticals has joined medical organizations and pharmaceutical firms in celebrating World Diabetes Day.

To its end, MSD recently sponsored Condo Teachers of the MSD convention under where lectures were given by Dr. Tommy S. Ty, president of Philippine Diabetes Association, entertainment was provided and free blood sugar testing was conducted.

RFA: Excellent alternative to surgery in bone cancer treatment

PATIENTS WITH BONE CANCER suffer greatly from excruciating pain, bone fracture, and nerve compression. Bone cancer is by far the most common cause of cancer pain. It often develops when cancers cells from the breast, lung and prostate "metastasize" (spread) to the bones. Conventional treatments, which primarily on external beam radiation and chemotherapy. Unfortunately, these treatments are not completely effective and many patients bear with inadequate pain relief.

The good news is that patients with localized bone cancer who fail to respond to conventional treatments may benefit from the symptomatic relief provided by radiofrequency ablation (RFA), according to Dr. Dennis C. Villanueva, a consultant interventional neuroradiologist at the St. Luke's Medical Center.

Treatment for solid tumors

RFA is an image-guided minimally invasive treatment for solid tumors, explains Dr. Villanueva, the only local specialist who has completed two years of intensive training on RFA of organs other than the liver with radiofrequency systems. It involves the insertion of a probe through the affected bone and delivering it into with computerized tomography (CT) scan guidance and the delivery of alternating electrical current (radio frequency energy).

Heat is then generated at the site of the lesion through agitation caused by the alternating electrical current. This heat produces coagulation and cellular destruction, resulting in the ablation (removal) of the target cancer tissue. The tumor is literally "burned out." RFA's mode of action is similar to that of a microwave oven, heating from the inside out. The average American only gets 250 mg of antioxidants from tea, 1% mg from beverages made from banana, 44 mg from red wine, and 32 mg from lemon juice.

CARSPLUS

Angelo Salvador

cancer worsen the decreased only over a period of time.

RFA has been used in patients with persistent pain from a solitary focus of metastatic disease previously treated or in hundred-dose to obtain ablation therapy (tumor destruction) can be performed as an alternative to external beam radiotherapy. RFA can also be used in combination with conventional therapy such as external beam radiotherapy or some of the newer therapies such as vertebroplasty, a minimally invasive procedure that uses surgical cement to stabilize compromised vertebrae and alleviate pain, according to Dr. Villanueva.

"The largest clinical application of RFA is as an alternative to radiation therapy in relieving pain among patients with bone cancer," Dr. Villanueva says. "Because growth and spread can be controlled safely with RFA in patients with highly localized disease, RFA can also be used as a neoadjuvant (treatment for larger tumors that do not respond well to radiation therapy alone.

"In any case, RFA should always be considered as a first intensive and curable line with clinical evaluation for patients with small, well confined tumors," Dr. Villanueva notes. The procedure may also be an effective upfront cancer cell cytoreduction (tumor size reduction) before external beam radiation and/or systemic chemotherapy.

Potential advantages

According to Dr. Villanueva, RFA offers several potential advantages when compared with other treatment methods:

- Cancer cell death is immediate.
- Lesion size can be accurately controlled.
- Lesion temperature can be monitored.
- Hormonic placement can be achieved with a percutaneous (through the skin) image-guided procedure.
- The procedure can be performed under local anesthesia and intravenous sedation.

Aside from the treatment of bone metastases, CT-guided RFA has also been shown to be a cost-effective surgical alternative in the treatment of osteoid osteoma, Dr. Villanueva says. Osteoid osteoma is a small, benign, but painful, mineralized tumor of spongy bone occurring especially in the bones of the lower extremities and vertebrae, most often in children and young adults. Such patients typically suffer pain that worsens at night and responds to non-anti-inflammatory drugs. Traditional treatments involve en-bloc resection and surgery to relieve pain.

Percutaneous CT-guided RFA is a minimally invasive, safe and effective alternative to the surgical and medical management of osteoid osteoma," said Dr. Villanueva. "With success rates similar to those of surgery, there is minimal associated complications and rapid recovery, percutaneous CT-guided RFA has largely eliminated the need for surgical treatment and long-term medical management."

Angelo Salvador is a science and technology broadcaster for dzRH radio, and is the multiple-titled technology and business reporter-columnist of inquirer.net.

Coffee among antioxidant-rich beverages

WHILE TEA DOES NATURALLY produce antioxidants, it needs additional amounts of these substances for it to remain in a constant state of wellness.

Antioxidants help neutralize the body's free radicals as they attack cell membranes and cause damage. In addition to tumors in certain areas, which has been suggested to cause premature aging and degenerative diseases of the cardiovascular, immune and nervous systems as well as cancer and cataracts.

This is why doctors advise that we intake antioxidant-rich beverages as part of our diet. Regular consumption of fruit-made drinks as well as coffee, tea and red wine, for example, are highly recommended.

Antioxidant-rich beverages

Antioxidant-rich beverages include those made from bananas, cranberries, blueberries, grapes, strawberries, apples, peaches, mangoes and melons, for while these fruits are readily available, not many people take the necessary steps to do so.

A study conducted by Dr. Joe Vinson, a leading chemist from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, showed that the

Coffee tops list

The No. 1 source of antioxidants in the typical American's diet is in fact coffee, which gives the average American 1,200 milligrams of antioxidants daily. It topped the list of 100 antioxidant-rich items that Americans consume.

Coffee contains rich amounts of the antioxidant phenol, which are associated with the lowering the risk of heart diseases and cobalt, among others.

Although no studies studies have yet been made in the Philippines, the recently held "Coffee Festival" in Baguio City is an undeniably rich "coffee culture" society. In a group of researchers from the University of the Philippines goes in, "Filipinos drink coffee in the morning, regularly and during social gatherings.

So as it is with Americans, coffee is the number one source for Filipinos of antioxidants for its genius. It is one of the best beverages that help us remain in a resilient state of wellness.

KIDS QUIZ By Enrique Cena

Food for thought

CHERRY IS THE NEW COOL. IT'S THE new healthy, the new beautiful, said Jon Pond by The New York Times on Monday.

You may not be a cursory student, but this does not mean that you are actually unfit and unhealthy. So relax, take some break. Forget your pet-peeve dietary habits, and let these tasty but good passwords. Besides, Dr. Christian is not sure's near.

Let us check your knowledge of some of your favorite foods by matching the kind of food on the left with its creator on the right.

Time: quite scares sure. Hurry hurry.

Food	Creator
1. Bubble gum	a) Peter Cooper
2. Margarine	b) Forrest Mars Sr.
3. M&M's	c) Frank Epperson
4. Corn flakes	d) Ruth Wakefield
	e) Dr. John Harvey Kellogg
5. Instant potato	f) Chocolate Crunch Bergen's
6. Peanut butter	g) George Crum
7. Ice cream cone	h) Walter E. Deeson
8. Potato chips	i) Dr. John Kellogg
9. Ice cream soda	j) John Kellogg
10. Potato chips	k) Reynolds/Hugo Stinnes

Bonus question: Whose book is behind the Chocolate Monday's fame?

Bonus: 1-4 Great; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Rainy days and male genes

TO PARAPHRASE THE DUCHESS in Christina Rossetti's poem, "Who has seen the rain?"

Those who have seen the buffalo herds of South Africa can tell that animals were proof that a single environmental factor can have a significant impact on the genes that get passed on from one generation to another.

The seasonal amount of rainfall the animals of South Africa get plays a role in determining how much food will be available to the animals that live there, and how the animals will interact with each other. The researchers wrote in their paper.

Unlike the X chromosome, which one come from either parent, the Y chromosome is an exclusively male hand-me-down. And because the genes on the Y chromosome don't easily exchange information with those on the X chromosome, researchers can use it to find out what genetic information is considered worthy of being saved and passed on from father to son.

Y chromosome variants

A recent study from the online journal Plos One has linked the Y chromosome variants that a male African buffalo passes on in his offspring to a group with the amount of rain that fell during the year prior to the calves' births. The calves don't look any different on the outside, but the genes that they inherit from their father can, in turn affect the likelihood that they themselves will find females willing to mate with them and bear their offspring when they grow up.

The study was led by Pim Brouwer, a botanist at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, in collaboration with colleagues from the United States. She Vitelli did a good portion of his graduate and postdoctoral research in South African studying the African buffalo.

Testing for the success study was done on herds at two South African parks between 1998 and 2004. Of the approximately 35,000 animals, researchers took blood samples from nearly 600 buffalo and their ages and parentage. They also determine when they were born so that they could then look up the weather conditions for those time periods.

Taking the previous year's weather conditions into account narrowed the cause down to a full-term pregnancy in the buffalo is about 340 days, was finally et al. wrote.

The researchers found that when the rainfall is heavier, there are up to eight times as many calves with male genes as females' chromosome variants. When the rainfall season is comparatively drier, a different variant predominates.

Buffalo's body conditions

Another factor the researchers mention when it comes to passing on genes is the buffalo's body condition. Making sure they're getting enough energy-intensive (sweetness), fats (foods or oil, seeds, and the male buffalo has to maintain a careful balancing act if he wants to father offspring, Brouwer et al. wrote. Overeating only means the calves aren't really an option. Stress is a leading criterion for the females, who want to make sure they are getting the best possible fathers for their offspring.

"The ecological relationship with male reproductive success makes the population composition and dynamics very sensitive to changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change, which may substantially affect population viability," the authors wrote in their study, which appeared last month in the online journal Plos One.

Still Hoek et al.'s statement supports their claim that a single environmental factor can affect the larger picture's final outcome. Rainy weather doesn't just affect how many baby buffalo's chances of being offspring, but also because of global warming affects the Y chromosomes being handed down by the entire herd, and in turn could skew their future populations.

* * *

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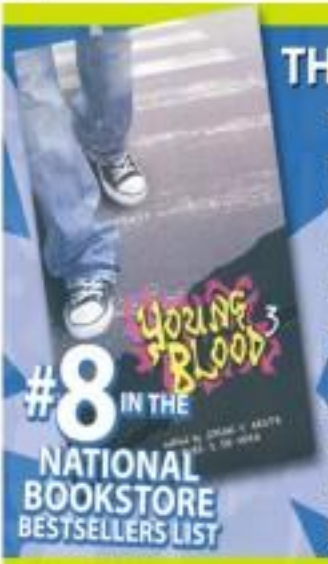

THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood[3] is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood[3] is the young Filipino—unplugged.

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MWCI asks for hike in water rates

By Amy R. Remo

ATOKA-OWNED MANILA WATER CO. INC. plans to increase its water rates next year, saying the tariff adjustment was necessary to cover additional capital expenses in the next 15 years.

In a public consultation yesterday, MWCI president Antonino Aquino said these planned investments, worth roughly P117 billion, would ensure the 24-hour supply of clean water to the growing population in the east zone.

The "indicative" average all-in tariff has been initially set at P34.64 a cubic meter, which MWCI plans to implement from 2008 to 2012.

Enough water

The current average all-in tariff is P28.54 a cubic meter.

Average all-in tariff refers to the mean of all the tariffs plus add-on rates related to MWCI's four customer types: residential, semibusiness, commercial and industrial.

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System-Regulatory Office chief Alberto C. Agra said yesterday that the proposed "indicative" tariff was just a working figure and may change after the public consultations.

Agra explained that the tariff increase would translate to an average increase of P187 in the monthly bill of residents consuming 30 cubic meters, or an increase of P6.20 a day.

If the current bill is P933 for residents with a 30-cubic meter consumption, their bill would increase to P630 starting next year.

Increase takes effect in Jan.

Final tariff adjustments are set to be released to the public by Dec. 16, to enable MWCI to implement the increase on Jan. 1, 2008.

In his presentation, Aquino said the tariff increase was needed to ensure reliability of the supply of water in the east zone and to enable the expansion of services in the next 15 years.

"MWCI must prepare for the increase of population, effects of natural calamities and compliance with the Clean Water Act. To do so, major investments are needed to ensure a 24-hour water supply," he said.

New water sources

Three investments include finding new water sources aside from Angat dam, where Metro Manila secures 97 percent of its water supply; the maintenance repair, rehabilitation and laying down of pipelines to avoid leaks; and aggressive expansion of water meter program.

MWCI said it was currently implementing aggressive service expansion programs to reach the fringe areas of Taguig, Antipolo, San Mateo, Rodriguez, Cainta, Taytay and Angono.

Water supply projects have already started in the towns of Sumo, Binangonan and Jalajala, all in Rizal.

Further service improvement and rehabilitation projects are also being undertaken in areas with 100-percent water coverage, which include the southeastern part of Quezon City, Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, the San Andres and Sta. Ana areas of Manila and the portion of Makati City east of the South Super Highway.

To help protect and preserve the environment, MWCI said it was also expanding its wastewater operations and maintenance services all over the east concession area and was now building septic treatment plants in San Mateo, Rizal, Pinugay in Antipolo and Wood Terminal Complex in Taguig.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES SUITES - A CLASS BEYOND FIRST

The new Singapore Airlines Suites cabin designed specially to offer space to make the flight experience even more luxurious.

Elegantly furnished with the Singapore Airlines signature colors and motifs, the Suites cabin is set to offer a perfect marriage of classic style, ergonomics and technology. Each seat is cabin-dressed to feel like a private suite, with an elegant wooden door.

"Developed with our most valued and discerning customers in mind, the concept of the Singapore Airlines Suites is nothing less than spectacular," said Singapore Airlines Senior Vice President Product and Services.

"Singapore Airlines Suites customers can now unwind in a flight with an unprecedented level of personal space, in their very own private suites in the sky. The exquisite new amenities, ergonomic seat, the special services from our well-trained cabin crew, will delight the most discerning of first class passengers."

The new Singapore Airlines Suites were designed specially to offer space to make the flight experience even more luxurious.

Elegantly furnished with the Singapore Airlines signature colors and motifs, the Suites cabin is set to offer a perfect marriage of classic style, ergonomics and technology. Each seat is cabin-dressed to feel like a private suite, with an elegant wooden door.

The new in-flight entertainment system is also the most advanced ever to be offered by Singapore Airlines. Each suite is equipped with a 23-inch widescreen LCD monitor, which is the largest in the industry.

The system is fully adjustable with a remote to control electronic control panel to accommodate a variety of viewing and lounging positions.

The intuitive cabin control panel, which is positioned at each suite's entrance, is built into each individual Singapore Airlines Suite, and does not obstruct the seat or the passenger's personal space.

For passengers wanting the suite to themselves, the seats can be converted to an optional double bed.

Each suite's doors and mattress ensure customers can fulfill their personal and comfort preferences.

The intelligent design of the in-flight entertainment system also allows passengers to watch their preferred viewing movies, but also allows them to sit or lounge in bed as they might in the comfort and privacy of their own home.

Work or Rest, Singapore Airlines Suites offers complete choice

For customers who want to catch up on work on board their Singapore Airlines Suite can be transformed into a stylish office in the sky. Each Singapore Airlines Suite includes a divine lounge for entertaining, relaxing and meeting colleagues. A personal work station and a personal seat have also been added.

In addition to working or complete privacy, each Singapore Airlines Suite comes furnished with a generously wide and height-adjustable table which can function as a workstation, meeting table or lounge area.

Customers with laptops can tap into the in-seat power supply, which customers with cell or thumb drives can also get work done by plugging into the USB ports and utilizing the comprehensive suite of office tools available on Microsoft Singapore Airlines exclusive enterprise portal, KrisWorld.

KrisWorld: the biggest show in the sky and personalized

Customers can sit back and be entertained, relishing up to 1000 KrisWorld.com, top-quality movies and TV programmes on the sleek, divine, personal high-definition (HD) monitor, which is one of the largest in the industry. Or listen to a large selection of CDs on the award-winning Audio-on-Demand system.

The new KrisWorld offers a wide selection of 100 movies, more than 100 TV programmes, a library of 700 music CDs, 20 games and more, with full audio and video on demand. A new audio and videotape/software library is available by ordering on 6500 Krisworld.com and KrisWorld.

KrisWorld's comprehensive reference with entertainment and information is available customized to the cabin crew's request.

Inflight Amenities

Completing the luxurious experience is the exclusive Singapore amenity kit which will be provided by Singapore Airlines Suites customers on long-haul flights. Exclusively available on the Suites, the amenity kit features the latest fragrance, 4 by Salvatore Ferragamo. Ferragamo in Suits, have been developed for the Suites.

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The Singapore Airlines Suites is also a convenient and first and will be now available on the Airbus A340-500 flight connecting to Europe and the U.S. starting next ... exclusively on the new Singapore Airlines Suites.

For flight bookings and other information on the Singapore Airlines Suites call your travel agent or contact Singapore Airlines at 5846C in Manila or 1-800-1-888-6C (1-800-1-888-6222) in Cebu or 1-800-1-888-6C (1-800-1-888-6222) in Davao or visit SIA at www.singaporeair.com.

Lito Cruz O. Manganaan

PROPERTY

Developer didn't deliver? Settle before you sue

By Brad R. Salazar

THERE GOES YOUR retirement pay. Your developer has turned your dream beach rest house into a nightmare. You've paid for the property, and nothing has promises were produced.

Jhanice Property asked the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board about options a buyer had to cover when the developer falls short of its guarantees.

Orlino Hallmendinger, housing and home site regulation officer of the HLURB's legal services,

DEVELOPER, B2-4

Goldfinch Construction In Full Swing

Very soon, jobseekers and subscribers to Pinoyhouse will have another fun-filled weekday lifestyle centerpiece in Luxuriville as the Goldfinch Residence, one of the premium mid-rise condominium clusters in this contemporary tropical haven, makes significant headway in construction.

A groundbreaking development

A flagship project of world-class integrated property group Luxure Properties and Development Corporation (LPDC), in partnership with its marketing arm, Pan Asia Property Management Inc., Luxuriville was inaugurated via a groundbreaking ceremony that took place at Luxuriville's actual location along Matthew Crescent, Multinational Village, Barangay Manuyo, Parañaque City. The momentous occasion was graced by top-level officials of the city of Parañaque headed by Parañaque City Mayor Florencio Merafina, Jr. and 2nd District of Parañaque Congressman Roilo Golez. The occasion marked the formal commencement of LPDC's first venture for Luxuriville, the Goldfinch Residence, which posted a very encouraging maiden performance after only a year since Luxuriville's official launch in November 2006. Its Goldfinch area inquiry center in the Luxuriville lifestyle, seaside boardwalk is privileged living in well-within reach for its residents.

Freedom to Luxure Life Icons

Espousing a lifestyle of opulent outdoor charms, Luxuriville is a welcoming community, masterfully planned with elegantly-designed clusters of condominiums amidst a contemporary tropical setting. Each cluster is named after familiar agricultural-inspired Luxuriville's central theme of freedom: Nightingale, Canary, Starling, Hummingbird, Toucan, Parakeet, and Goldfinch.

Point these clusters, Luxuriville's enchanting layout has been structured to landscaping lines for entrepreneurs interiors, and boast to each impressive detail. Luxuriville's spacious and intimate pocket parks enhance your privacy. It encourages and invites you to with its rows of ambiance amenities. Invigorate your mornings by taking a walk or a jog along its landscaped jogging paths. Bask in nature's everlasting glory and surround yourself with the lush greenery and colorful blooms of the orchid gardens. Organize memorable get-togethers with friends and family at the clubhouse with function rooms accommodating enough with their spacious layout. Relax the day away by the refreshing calm of the randomly-shaped pool as you are serenaded by the music of tropical birds at this inviting aviary nearby. Or alleviate your senses of well-being as you indulge in the contents of an exotic spa and get your body toned at the gym. Soak in every gratifying bit of pleasure at the day parties, a one-of-a-kind feature of Luxuriville's environment. Let you to a welcome sight of foliage and flowers, creating the perfect backdrop for her activities and recreation. Wellness can be yours to enjoy with total peace of mind as you are assured of a secure location within the residence, Multinational Village, and its own 24-hour security.

Apart from these amenities and nationally-lived comforts, Luxuriville also gives you the freedom to go where you want to go, as Luxuriville's convenient location is just minutes away from key areas like Makati, Ortigas and the Bonifacio Area, including nearby industrial parks in Laguna and Cavite. It also affords accessible easy access to major malls and their neighbors, such as the South Luzon Express and other major highways, and the government agencies and quarantine facilities international airport. Manila Harbor, and provincial bus stations. These are also these arms and will polish offering alternate routes away from heavy traffic areas. With Luxuriville, you live a breath of fresh air of home that surpasses your ambitions and feels these new flight, without you ever having to abandon the city conveniences.

Luxuriville is a meticulously freedom in city living that evokes the liberty of living on your own, and living every minute of it elegantly, luxuriously, and confidently only in Luxuriville. There are 4 more Luxuriville condominium clusters waiting on for you: Inner Contact Plan area. Property Management today at telephone, electronic and text. Check and know how you can own a piece of the Luxuriville lifestyle through flexible financial packages. We may also visit www.luxuriville.com.

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Burj Dubai: King of the towering kings

By Ermar Cora

THE UPCOMING TOAR IS EXPECTED TO be anchored with a head lining from Bloomberg and many media outlets. But more than the welcome of clouds and showers is the recently accompanied with the unveiling of the world's tallest structure, the Burj Dubai.

Burj Dubai or the Dubai Tower is the skyscraper currently under construction in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. According to its developer, it will be the tallest free-standing structure in the world surpassing the Taipei 101 in Taiwan and the CN Tower in Canada.

The building, which is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2008, soars nearly a) more than 600 meters (2,227 feet) but with its apex the total height could be over 800 m (2,640 ft). To date, the building's official website reports the completion of the 156th storey. Construction of the building started in September 2004.

Scheduled for occupancy in September 2009, the building is located at the Fort Interchange (a.k.a. Defence Roundabout) at the corner of Sheikh Zayed Road and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard, a) the center of Dubai. The apex of the building is expected to be over twice (188 km (168 miles) away.

Awesome Structures

Keep structural details secret

Emaar Properties, the building developer, is keeping structural details secret until now, keeping the public guessing as to what could be Burj Dubai's final height.

When finished, the building will have more than 160 floors and 56 double-decker elevators. It will house suites of residential apartments, exclusive shops, a swimming pool, spas, corporate suites, Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani's first hotel and an observation platform on the 124th floor.

The building will also have the largest observatory in the world) with a) capacity of 760 m/min (43.3 kph or 26.1 mph). Emaar says.

City of the World

"It's a symbol of Dubai as a city of the world," Greg Sang, the project director for Emaar Properties, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Previous skyscraper record-holders include the Taipei 101 (1,671 ft), New York's Empire State Building (1,250 ft), Shanghai's Jin Mao Building (1,381 ft), Chicago's Sears Tower (1,451 ft), Malaysia's Petronas Towers (1,483 ft), and the 529 Tower, in Toronto, Canada (1,815.3 ft).

Although its shape resembles that of the beautiful new concept of the Sears Tower, a) is structurally very different and technically not a cube structure, its developer says. Designed by Adrian D. Smith GH Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP), the triple-lobed footprint of Burj Dubai is based on an abstracted desert flower native to the region.

References: www.burjdubai.com, bbcnews.com, www.skyscraperpage.com, www.emporis.com

Megaworld completes One World Square

TOP RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS PROmote outsourcing (BPO) office condominiums developer Megaworld Corp. has completed the BPO building in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

One World Square is now ready to occupy. BPO tenants who are looking for a prime location near Makati and Ortigas, as well as the airport. The building is located right at the entrance to McKinley Hill, Megaworld's largest mixed-use township to date at 50 hectares.

Adjacent to space demands

The building is 11 stories high and provides 20,000 square metres of prime office space. The first office tenant to feature vacancies is Boots plaza. One World Square easily adjusts to the space demands of hyper-growth BPO firms, according to Megaworld's SVP Jericho Co. The 2nd to 5th floor offers have 5,000 square metres of space and the 6th-7th floor, 2,000 square metres. The top four floors provide floor plates of 700 square metres.

"A 700-square-metre office is ideal for startups. But once startups demand kicks in and they generate more revenues, then the business can move within the same premises. The building is in tune with the dynamics of the BPO business. Our tenants have considered that as an advantage, that is why they chose One World Square," Co proudly declared.

Within Cyberpark

Since the building is located within the McKinley Hill Cyberpark—which is serviced by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) board as an extension—One World Square BPO owners will be entitled to various fiscal and nonfiscal incentives, including income tax holidays.

In addition, shops such as McDonald's, Starbucks and 7-11 are now open or are set to open at One World Square's ground floor level to provide convenience to the tenants' workers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For inquiries about One World Square at McKinley Hill, interested BPOs and corporate business may call 922-0708 or e-mail jcruplacon@megaworldcorp.com.

TOP residential and BPO buildings condominiums developer Megaworld Corp. announces the completion of One World Square in McKinley Hill.

Sentricon the best preventive measure vs termites

EUZEN MACAMALAY, GRETCHELLE ACwife of TV host-comedian Joey de Leon, understands the value of having a peaceful and stable home. She is proud that she still knows a lot from parenting, and continues to dedicate herself to keeping her husband and children comfortable in their haven of Fair Meadow in Quezon City.

"I'm a housewife, so I'm very particular with order and cleanliness," Gloria said. "I think cleanliness are naturally protective. When the time came for me to be one, I became aware of many responsibilities to fulfill before I could rest at the end of the day. As a mom, you're more aware when something in the house are damaged, for example. But you also know how to correct the defects. You'll be more cautious in terms of making sure that your family is safe and secure."

First sign of termite attack

In another unfortunate subdivision in Quezon City, another family was reported out. The 15-year-old property is also being taken care of, according to Eileen. But as it isn't always lived in, some things have remained unnoticed by owners, until major damage has occurred. "The first signs of termite attack are noticed was under the stairway. We quickly called our regular pest control for a liquid termiticide treatment," she shared.

Eileen mentions later, in Eileen's surprise, the pesky termites were back. "A few times I was about to move into the house when I caught sight of new termite trails. I realized that when a place is quiet and has no activity, the pests tend to take advantage. I had the house treated with the same chemical solution again but it was not enough to keep the termites from coming back," she revealed. "We finally decided on trying the Sentricon system to prevent further damage from happening."

TV host-comedian Joey de Leon with wife Eileen.

Internationally acclaimed

Sentricon, manufactured by Dow agroSciences, is an internationally acclaimed product that makes use of baiting systems to stop wood-destroying termites. Because it is tasteless and odorless, the Sentricon technology can only be installed and monitored by authorized operators. Inphest Pest Solutions Inc. (MB-1822/1395, 097-8554248), a local pest operational group duly accredited, was highly recommended by Eileen's family friend for the house's system problems.

"Jerry and I have been renting out this house since day one. Since we don't live there, there's the tendency that it'll be more prone to termite infestations. If you live there and you're the owner, you'll notice the slightest changes in the house because you wouldn't want your house to collapse, have leaks or other problems. Since we don't stay there, we wanted to make sure that the house's quality is being maintained, so having them acts as its protective force systems."

Eileen explained that its features were indeed pleasing and impressive. "We recommend the Sentricon Baiting System, because it's the most effective and most convenient to use," she said.

"We tell our friends about it. Usually, when you see the chemical sprays, it looks like a you, you see substances of termites. Aside from spraying the dirty lawn removing. Plus, the chemicals aren't pleasure-looking, after the treatment, there's a make substances that you still have to clean up. Using the traditional chemicals is hard, because you have to move the furniture, you you have to monitor where the technicians are injecting the treatment. Sometimes they might have to drill your tiles. It's hard, messy and costly."

Keeping structure protected

Christopher Villasis, Inphest's area supervisor, shared that the very house had previously been attacked by the most voracious pest of termite. "We installed the Sentricon stations around the perimeter of the house and will check them regularly to prevent and eliminate termite colonies."

Jerry and Eileen added that Sentricon system is to keep the structure protected, minus the typical hassles. "The system is quick and our lessons are not bothered. The tenants are happy knowing that they are being taken care of. We rent out the house, but we still take care of it."

"We really protect our properties for the children," Eileen said. "We want to pass it to them, as it' not, meaning from them is still an option. We had really wants to protect what we invested in... there's always been one quiple, whether we're using the house or having it rented out. Building them required hard work and money. It would be costlier if we did nothing and let the termites attack again! With Sentricon, we're preventing that."

Lafarge Semento goes beyond construction

WORLDS LEADING CEment Sita Lafarge Semento has gone far beyond construction, but not into woods or business of cement.

The fearful move, broadly discussed at the World Trade Center Metro Manila during the first-day international conference expo Pedrocement 2007, is also battle about building quality homes, skyscrapers and modern cities as it does here.

"It's more about building a better quality of life for the markets and communities we serve than anything else," says Joel Lacsamana, vice president for corporate communications of Lafarge Cement Services Philippines Inc.

"But since the Lafarge Group operates in many countries worldwide, we might appear to be saying we build a better world as we hope we could," Lacsamana adds.

Worldwide, the Lafarge Group has taken a broad look at sustainable development and cure for the well-being of its stakeholders in work safety, health, education and the environment.

Reduce energy demand

In the Philippines, Lafarge Semento is the first cement company to help the country reduce its dependence on fossil fuel in the range of climate change by using the big energy demand.

The company has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to promote saving and funding a study, which identifies the means to save up to P399 billion worth of energy and prevent 68.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollutants.

The Emission Reduction through Energy Efficiency Study (ERE), the first research tool of its kind that can be used as facilitate policies in decreasing energy demand, makes Lafarge Semento the first Philippine cement company to help the government respond regional warming.

"The WWF-Lafarge partnership also tackles climate change solutions by promoting blended cements formulations that are environment-friendly," Lacsamana says.

At the same time, the company saves the planet, instead of coal, as fuel for its Republic Cement kilns in Iligan and Bacoor. This also reduces carbon dioxide emissions and generates income for farmers who sell rice husks to the company.

With its strong commitment in the community and the environment, Lafarge Semento's Republic Cement plant in Bacoor received the Tourism Presidential Minister of Industry Award in 1998, 1999 and 2003.

In recent past, Lafarge Semento plants earned from the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association the distinction as the company's "Safest Cement Plant" and were selected as the "Leaders in Energy Efficiency" through the Don Emilio Abello Energy Efficiency Award given by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Lafarge Semento also partnered with the indigenous communities in the Sierra Madre mountain range to adopt as its hectares of the endangered Ipo Watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan where the company initially planted over 1,000 trees. The Ipo Watershed project is to become a nationwide reforestation program for similarly threatened watershed areas.

Social responsibility

These so-called corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects are focused, not only on the environment, but also directly to people.

"In health and safety, Lafarge Semento has rolled out the Wincas Building Safety and Assurance Program," Lacsamana says.

The program provides safety training and insurance coverage, through partner Philam Insurance, to thousands of Filipino construction workers.

This year, Lafarge Semento has partnered with income-based Gawad Kalinga Foundation, the Japanese Embassy and the Philippine government to build 10 Wincasas the world's first fortified schools.

The schools are made of ready-packed cement bags, which are then filled together by sand and cement to form a strong but cost-effective structure.

The company has also built school buildings in Bacoor, Cavite and Iligan and helped build Gawad Kalinga houses in Iligan and Bacoor cities.

"Clearly, Lafarge Semento's business is inevitably tied to the original ways in which it works to improve the daily life of its stakeholders while helping build a more sustainable world," Lacsamana says.

LAFARGE exhibit at Philconstruct 2007

Developer didn't deliver? . . .

From page B2-1

offered a few.

Seek the amicable settlement first. Remember that if the buyer and the developer settled the issue amicably on their own, expenses incurred for legal filing, fees for complainant and counsel would be avoided.

Option 1: Substitute lot

If your enemy is with the developer already, maybe the developer has other projects to offer to you.

Remember that if, for example, subdivision A and B belonged to a single developer and it so happened that you bought a property in subdivision A, in which further developments had ceased for whatever reason, then demand for another lot with the same value in subdivision B.

Remember that subsequent agreements on this option would also depend on the location and classification of the two properties (whether or not the two developments are classified as high-class subdivisions, for example).

Before negotiating, Eskandalig urged buyers to do their own research and background checks on the developers and their projects, and conduct interviews with reliable property experts and realtors on the particular area's property values. An adviser from HLURB can mediate while both parties negotiate.

If the developer insists that the "undeveloped" subdivision is meant to be used for negotiating edge because of its state of being "undeveloped," buyers can counter with data on lot values and price projections that the developer uses subdivision A to its completion at the target dates. Your property would also have been appreciating at the same rate with subdivision B properties.

Option 2: Refund

Eskandalig said that if the developer cannot be compelled to complete the project for lack of funds and there are no substitute projects for the buyers to relocate, buyers can ask for a complete refund of their payments. A refund, however, is based on the actual money the buyer paid, and carries the possibility that the refund money would have less value of its value, especially if the time lapsed has run into years.

In cases where the buyer has no choice but to demand a refund, the HLURB would file this as "nondevelopment." In the buyer's papers, include your exact demands.

Option 3: File a complaint at HLURB

The filing of interest of damages against the developer—if ever the buyer will be awarded—will only commence on the date of the buyer's filed complaint.

(For more inquiries, log on to http://www.hlurb.gov.ph/page/home, or call the HLURB hotline at 927-1065.)

Agri-tourism

MANY CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD are spending more and more time indoors using computers. The average number of hours may range from one to three every day. This is in addition to the time they spend in front of television and video games. This situation can place children at increased risk for repetitive stress injuries, eye strain, obesity and other health hazards due to a sedentary lifestyle. They are also exposed to the harmful effects of toxic emissions from new computer equipment and electromagnetic radiation from old video monitors.

AGRI-TOURISM offered by Galvani Farms Tagaytay creates nature experiences using the latest eco-friendly agri-tourism technology.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Armando de Jesus

But in the rooms many children today have no idea of how it feels to be outdoors, to see animals and plants or simply to be close to nature. Virtual reality has taken away their perception of what the real world is. Researchers confirm now that many of these children are suffering from what is called nature deficit disorder. This type of disorder is the cumulative effect of withdrawal from nature.

To reverse this trend and to fulfill many people's desire for their families to enjoy the clean unpolluted air of the countryside, many communities worldwide are now going back to nature by getting into the growing business of agricultural tourism or simply agri-tourism. After all, new research shows that nature is a powerful therapy for depression, obesity and other types of illnesses and disorders.

Agri-tourism

In many countries, agri-tourism evolved as a result of the loss of traditional farm income due to modern global agricultural economy. But in western developed countries ways to celebrate, celebrate and revive influences like rural people looked at farms and how they relate to them.

Children are particularly rumored to close farms because of the chance to experience firsthand what and how it feels to see where most of their food comes from amid a natural and green environment.

Taiwan

The new generation of farms is now popular in Taiwan which attracts people who have not been exposed to rural culture before and who tend to enjoy agricultural products. The total number of visitors is expected to reach 30,000 to 40,000 people this year.

United States

The United States has several farms that are designed for agri-tourism. Many farms have been transformed into full-theme parks complete with petting zoos, hay rides, discovery farms, school field trips and seasonal festivities and contests. One of the most famous and successful farms is the Rancho Berry Inn in which visitors do traditional berry farm.

Many of these farms emphasize the value of utilizing organic methods of growth. They stress the importance of using only natural methods of growing their products, as opposed to other methods that depend heavily on toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

Philippines

The concept of agri-tourism has also caught up in the Philippines. One successful project is the Lemery Farms Tagaytay in Lemery, Batangas, which is designed to celebrate and educate people of various ages on the many benefits of close communion with nature through farming.

The farm, designed like a nature park, is an interesting educational entertainment for grown-ups and children who may want to be professional farmers in the future.

The Lemery farms, spanning 13 hectares of green development, features a fish pond and a fishing lake near the entrance. Its village store, which serves Pagao coffee and sandwiches, welcomes visitors where they can relax upon arrival. Visitors can also look on as part of its biological/organic farming, the farm features vermicomposting using earthworms called African night crawlers that make fertilizers better than the garden variety earthworms.

Special garden plots for space, a corn maze, a flower trail, a climate-controlled greenhouse for mushrooms, a koi pond, a bird sanctuary, a butterfly garden and a long flower trail are good reasons the farm is a popular destination for families with growing children and students.

For farm-loving city dwellers or "hobby farmers," the Lemery farm is a second home where their families experience the thrills of tending their own barns and enjoying the bounties of the land.

In the middle of our fast-paced world, now is the time to turn more and more to nature to counter the anxiety, stress and tension of everyday life.

* * *

For comments or inquiries, e-mail armando.jesus@gmail.com

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Have a colorful Christmas

By Tess S. Sarmiento

FILIPINOS LOVE TO CELEBRATE Christmas in a very "colorful" manner.

While mixing and matching vibrant hues add a lot of fun and zest to the holiday mood, feng shui reminds us that there may be wisdom to heeding the chinese phrase "Too colors blind," which means that using too many colors may have a numbing effect on homes and its owners.

Colors and their meanings

For a more "balanced" Christmas home decorating, here's a list of colors and their respective meanings accord ing to feng shui.

• **Gold and Silver**—can strengthen your intuition; represents succession, money and fame.

• **Red**—the color of life; most auspicious color of all; relates to growth, happiness and joy; great energizer representing deep and passionate love; believed to keep away evil forces.

• **Blue**—represents open wisdom, thoughtfulness and consideration; associated with faith, consistency and fi delity; cooling and calming.

• **Purple**—often considered more auspicious than red; associated with high ideals, travel, truth, love and suffering; often the color of high nobility indicating power, riches and fortune.

• **White**—is the color of mourning, said to have no life, no color, color of purity, innocence and fidelity; bring about perfection not to use this color.

• **Pink**—is healing; represents love and romance; a very comforting color; raises vibrations so it is very healthy color to have around you; represents joy, happiness and especially romance.

• **Multicolored**—represents the union of all the colors in the spectrum and each color will impart its special qualities; make sure that multicolored decorations are always used in green Christmas trees as the green balances whole system and brings order and harmony.

While red may be the most auspicious color to Christmas, feng shui advises to use plenty of green in your and balances the red fire energy.

Plus, green is said to be a cooling color. The use of plants can cool the atmosphere and bring peace and good feelings. "Green also absorbs the fire energy created by (Christmas) lights as well as the warmth generated" by crowds.

Adding good luck

Meanwhile, to add good luck to your homes, feng shui literature recommends the use of angels good decoration.

Hanging candles is also advised to greatly aid energy centers. The closer one is to the fire, the higher the benefits, but has an low energy field. However, feng shui advises to avoid burning candles in the east.

Essential oils in a candle or electric diffuser may also be used to keep the air fresh and the energy levels balanced. Pine, eucalyptus, ilang-ilang and neroli are among the recommended oils.

Lastly, feng shui reminds us to be always creative in decorating our homes and open to change. Happy decorating!

Some sou: http://fengshui.about.com and http://www.edenfair.go/fengshui_Christmas1_ch.htm)

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Street dreams are made of these

Text and photos by Pam Pearce

(Newport-Street, Mendin)

SELLING OUR OLD house meant so much more than just saying goodbyes to the place that witnessed my growth as a person—from pesky little bookworm to crazy singing/writing freak.

It meant having to let go of the street I've called mine for so many years, the street I loved easy to take for granted because I thought it would be a constant in my life.

There wasn't much to love about that street, at least not at first glance. It used to get flooded, unbelievably flooded. It was messy with dirty half-naked toddlers running around and puppies that have no concept of proper potty.

Some mornings you'd wake up to news that a neighbor had clubbed another neighbor. Some mornings you'd hear screaming. But the truth is, I loved that street. My grandpa grew up there. My dad grew up there. I remember the few times I was allowed outside, to play street hockey and volleyball. I remember being chased down that road by my grandpa who wanted to put medicine on my bleeding wounds. I have fond memories of walking home with a huge group of friends—my house was one of our Indonesia whenever we'd eat rice class in the university.

That street used to help me figure out if I really liked who I was during—if, after they dropped me off, I felt compelled to watch their car disappear on to my street's darkness from the living room window.

My memory will on that street, so I still get to visit it. But it no longer feels like mine. I was sad for a while, until I realized that saying goodbye to one street means saying hello to many others.

Since the time we drove away from my old house with the last of my junk, so many other events have welcomed me and have given me the gift of great adventures...and no dirty half-naked toddlers. Anyway I didn't know existed, streets that now hold the most means of motivation. There is no time left for mourning the loss of one street, not when I have countless more to conquer.

Street stalkers

Take a stroll with The Super Crew and trip out on their road works

A road with a view

Text and photos by Katrina A. Holguera

(Mystery road, Baguio)

IT WAS ALMOST LIKE A FLITE of passage. An escapade up north that seemed to the dead of night.

The end point was Baguio, one day before the end of February three years ago. My professional career had hit a speed bump and I was dating a guy who could best be described as a dead-end.

Going nowhere it seemed, I was then asked by an indie-born to come along to shoot a "narrative" project about. The intimation was like a kiss from an angel, and as a red-eyed bear we set off for the NLEX and up, up and away are drove us the City of Pines.

The plan was to screw the festival known as Hanghiyan, but before that, make love intimated, he wanted to show me a road he had discovered.

It looked deserted and abandoned at ungodly hours but was traffic jammed and virtually impassable as soon as the sun came up.

"You have to see it right before the sun rises, it's magnificent."

Having been tutored on National Geographic holiday, I held my breath and kept my eyes open inside my camera bag.

Four, five, six hours passed and I was amazed that the darkness did not intimidate us; drive on I couldn't even make out a single street sign.

It was an endless black snake of asphalt, but seventeenly we came to a clearing and all traces of sleepiness left me in a single breath—which was just as quickly taken away by what I saw. It was as if the skies were smoldering rich with the colors of rising flames and framed against thick white smoke.

For the next ten minutes all we could do was watch in silence as the sun slowly peeked through the clouds as if coming out of a rich foamy bath. Once sunlight streamed in from all directions, the glamour of the surroundings disappeared and the road was revealed as nothing extraordinary just a means to get from one end to the other and so we continued on our journey.

I look back on this trip as a turning point in my life. Soon after, my career shifted gears and I found a divorce out of Mr. Dead End. Funny, all this from an unremarkable road with an unforgettable view.

The reminder

By Wenggo Gallego
Photos by Wenggo Gallego and Amanda Lapus

(Kiara, Bali, Indonesia)

ART IS NOT TO BE taught in Academies. It is what one looks at, not what one listens to, that makes the artist. The real school should be the streets."—Oscar Wilde

The Balinese love offerings on the street, at the entrances of their homes and shops, as a way to remind them of the treasures of the world. Canang, as they are called, are composed of flowers, food, incense and other things that, as the hours pass and the tourists walk the streets, the offering just wastes away. If we consider this. They do this every morning—fresh flowers, fresh food, a full deal of incense and by the end of the day it's gone. Out in the sun, exposed to the heat, dust and wind and sometimes the occasional passing foot, the gift is never what it was earlier that day. It is to remind the Balinese that everything is transient, that nothing is permanent. They do this everyday and they put out these reminders on the streets.

I find that whole concept so apt. If there's one place that you will learn the lesson of impermanence, it would be in the streets. There is nothing permanence there. There's too much motion, too much activity. To work hard on something and make it so beautiful and then to just leave it to the mercy of the environment and other people is a true submission to a higher truth...that nothing in this world really ever really stays as we plan for it to be.

Wander gi

By Joana B. Manahan

(Various streets, Europ

EVERY TIME I TRAVEL, I ENJOY wandering around a city in its streets even if I get lost. Seeing the everyday going-on of how you really get a full appreciation of

Sometimes I wish I was oblivious enough to the little street scenes that are just pret

"Still, it is a photo of me taking a shopping br Monastiraki in Athens. I'd come to know I p very at home in Greece, although it was my f time there. As a kid my bedtime stories were from Greek mythology, so being in the place all these stories were set was almost living i loved imagination.

For another, good food and great shoppi added bonuses. The streets of Athens are st myths, legends and history played out, whic Impressive. I felt it to be almost magical at one Though the city has changed a lot since as a t times, the streets and structures that remain shreds have stories to tell.

Smooth talking on the stre

Text and photos by James Gabrillo

(Greenhills, San Juan)

WHEN I WAS A KID, I was obsessed with shoes.

To cut myself some slack, my clothing wasn't so bad as some crazy routine. But getting a new pair of sneakers was as intimidating to me, so exciting, that I could barely contain myself.

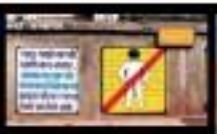
As soon as we got home from the mall, I'd go inside the bathroom, lock the door, and spend a load of time just examining the stitched, smooth soles. I was like a connoisseur tingling like mad.

I guess I was on into it because of the tactile part. I loved the rubber, the feel of it. Why I don't know, but I may have been learning how to use my sense of touch, the way we learn when we like to eat by feeling different kinds of food.

Along with the new sneakers came the expectation that each this pair I would be able to spiral faster, have better adventures, move more.

But other people didn't perceive my sneakers the way I did.

I vividly remember one time when I was in Grade 5. I was quietly waiting for the school bus to arrive when a fellow fam approached me and asked if I wanted to play football with them in the narrow street right outside school. I said yes, completely oblivious that it would cost me my sneakers.



Sign language

Even the most obscure hazards deserve the dignity of a traffic sign

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT signs have a way of speaking for themselves. A clearly marked arrow here, a cautionary exclamation point there, and you're directional dilemmas are solved, every traffic cue the hassle-free wonders of a GPS system.

Of course, this is assuming you're cruising the highways of your native country (or at least in one that shares a similar tongue). But consider being lost in the middle of nowhere. Land—via the exceptional thoroughfares of transitionese, in the mixed-language translations of Budapest, or in the dusty vocabulary of Istanbul—and you'll soon realize that you're at the mercy of language barriers and culturally confusing signals.

The ubiquitous nature of navigation cues on roadways, railways, and airports can lead to an overload of visual information, so little research has been done to understand the design and use of such signs from a driver's perspective.

In 2005, the creative forces behind Semiotic and the now-defunct Grimm magazine produced an amusing book, called "1000 Signs," a visual compendium of road signs collected by photographers in over 60 countries around the world.

But the photographs, while entertaining, aren't just there to be ogled at—there's a benefit of seeing how the world works, revealing how one environment can build larger cultural associations.

The text, though sparse and minimal, also tackles these semantics of difference. You'll discover how much cue is used on a daily basis to build the pictograms of America, or why "STOP" (in "ARRET" in Quebec, and "SORT" in Morocco) is the only octagonal sign.

The book also standardizes a few pictorials for where signs (and the road) are a fundamental part of their lives. There is Dara Aranda, who illustrates traffic (while directing) in Bangkok; engineer Rafik Kacimi, who is researching underground tunnels for the Cairo subway system; or Bangladeshi immigrant Abdul Sattar, who wipes windshields in the cosmopolitan intersections of Rome.

Whether or not they're impressionistic of the cultures they come from, signs are always interesting to look at, or even study in the context of product design.

"1000 Signs" may not be a profound, high-brow read, but the book will definitely make you think of your everyday, continuous road signs in a totally new light. And who knows? One day you might even decide to obey them.

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HOP TO WHERE IT'S HIP The BAPE store only sells premium clothing

The rise and fall of the hoody

Is the backstreet back or is it too cool for comfort?

PROUD TO BE A HOOD: LEFT Has the subculture reached its saturation point?

THUNDER ROAD

James Sabrina

THE STREETS IS STYLIZED: A Bathing Ape is gaining the esteem of Tokyo, NY and London with its signature 'Ape'

FASHION'S SPLASHLAND BAME: Pharrell Williams hops in the Bathe again.

THESE DAYS DID SOLLIE Sykers lives in the hippie enclave Shoreacre area Asheville, North Carolina. In the hot Spring Break, he asked his mom for a crotch for being on the house roof for three straight semesters—a thousand-mile journey to their dark.

But unlike other teens for crying to own the usual spots, Hoffy wanted only one thing—to shop at the Tokyo-based brand were more A Bathing Ape (BAPE) for connoisseurs and sneakers.

Hoffy reminds me of hooded clients who travel across oceans to snag the latest exclusive piece in Paris, the only place where the garments can be bought. As such a young age, there's already an alarming increase in cool, a sort of middle-class hallmark.

Alleyways and byways

But should we take these boys' destinations as part of the growth of the style-mean, limit-boost? Is this boom a regurgitation or? Or is it plainly just selling out?

As the Arab Bath Hoffy' parents think Zinnia puts it, "Hype is the new medium." But it is unfair to be cool. This piece is to subordinate to know out of an effected process that can't be judged on the fly. The issues, however, has always been the cause of consternation of perennial issues. It's the newer come thing with branding—everyone got to be one or yourself or else.

But what's so say when's legit

THE STREETS IS STYLIZED: A Bathing Ape is gaining the esteem of Tokyo, NY and London with its signature 'Ape'

'Tomboy' trends

Companies like Nike have hopped on the bandwagon, commissioning artists like Streetwriter, Collusion Theory and Team Manila—those pro-style groups famous to the streets of the streets—to create advertising campaigns generating billboards splashed with the whole graffiti, hip-hop, and photo-aesthetics.

Heck, even our own local scene's celebrities and hopes "wear" are coming up with their own collaborations, mostly infused with street connotations.

The planes of sound and vision has drifted towards the trend as well. Jim Libiran's film "Tabo" literally gave voice to the growing love of the streets-goody gangland of Tondo. The movie was awarded Best Film in this year's Cinemanila Film Festival.

Liberal arts on to travel around the country, bringing with him the gangsters and their melodic days, showing the middle class who rose were of our country's culture, for a while, my two sons owned multiple

SPACE INVADERS

A Central Super Perk

By Pam Bernaldez
Photos by Patrick Martinez

WHEN COMMERCIALIZED, fast-food style coffee was introduced to the Philippines a few years ago, the Filipinos took to it well.

Unlike its role in the USas stimulus shortterm to make quick stops for a cup of coffee, it has become just the opposite here. These coffee to go places have turned into actual gimmick spots that sometimes have you standing around waiting to find a seat.

Inevitably, several popped up at every corner of every street of every city—just like a fad, it was quick to start and quick to dethrone. Nowadays when you come into one of those places you are greeted by the generic rotundness and of "Good morning Ma'am, Sir" by the doormans even if you are going in alone, regardless of your gender.

After having too much of the same coffee menu and overpriced, often stale, pastries and danishes, you crave for something different. You get tired of ordering the same thing over and over and you wish to yourself if only you had your own version of Central Perk. Somewhere you can have coffee all day and not feel like prey in McDonalds, mired in unshakable crowds instead of lopsided steel chairs.

A place where you can order frozen yogurts, and not care when it expires only a handful of a person, that actually answers your questions about what they serve because they really know the answers.

Tastelo!

Bona Coffee, a quaint little cafe with a bohemian, antique setup just opened the corner of Shaikh Street in Mandaluyong is definitely a class in its own. Put up by Lois and Candace Gamboa, a couple not only well-traveled but are an obvious coffee lover of artistic expressions, the Bona Coffee was well-thought of and is exactly what a coffee shop is supposed to be.

Bona Coffee has a homely feel right when you enter the door with its funky brown to orange theme with the black leather couches. Your coffee and food will be served on an antique glass covered carved table from India, an eccentric wall as a quirky Buddha painted on it, an antique wall-recording mirror and to top it off—an old fashioned arm-chairs they actually take the day's puzzles!

Home brewed

All their coffee blends are from home grown coffee beans native to the Philippines.

The cafe is a great promotor of healthy food. Amazingly all their recipes and blends are non-fat and guilt-free. Don't worry, some of the food tastes like cardboard, as you can still enjoy the moist, rich, chocolaty experience without having to suffer the calories. Bona Coffee is proud of this too! Comparative charts can be found all over the place—makes you think twice when you go visit another commercialized fast food-style coffee place.

Satisfied buds

The food and drink center is as unique that they don't have a best seller. Each type of coffee blend, muffin, sandwich, or smoothie satisfies all sorts of taste buds. How can one have a best seller when all that's served is an equally good as the other?

Unlike most Wi-Fi ready facilities, Bona Coffee has free Wi-Fi across all day everyday. The only condition is a purchase of any amount and they give you their password for the day. Perfect for people who would like to take a break from the office and need a different environment to work in. Not to mention the coffee shop student who likes to absorb lore on medical books in order.

Ask Chairman Ho is a barista who knows his stuff. Ask him almost anything Bona Coffee serves and he has a lot to answer. Bona Coffee's attentive and knowledgeable baristas are also somethings unique to this place. They not only give dignity to a job that requires cul-

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SPACE INVADERS

A Central Perk

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HEAVENLY treats

Liquor unbanned

They have liquor! Probably the only place I know that serves affordable Irish coffee, that joint sells gourmet beer, too! Wait a while! Christmas ornaments.

Bona Coffee Company gives back. Aside from a percentage of their proceeds being donated to Lifeline Foundation Support Team Inc., food that are still fresh by the end of the day are also donated.

So come on! This coffee shop is a great find. If you live too far up North or too down South from SM Manila, Pasay/Parañaque, make the road trip because it's well worth it. You don't only get a break from the generic anything you order is a guaranteed experience, it's only a matter of finding out what your taste buds respond well to. So what are you waiting for, start exploring.

A Treasure Cage

Taking a break between shooting scenes for the new film at Universal Studios, Nicolas Cage talks to Super about returning for a second go-round as Ben Gates in 'National Treasure: Book of Secrets,' and explains why he tries to keep audiences and critics guessing

By Robert Lee Zamora

NICK (as Cage)

HE HOLDS a torch...

WAS MAKING A SEQUEL TO the first National Treasure an easy sell for you?

I didn't have any expectations for the first film and I was somewhat surprised, happily surprised, that it caught on the way it did and, yeah, I was very pleased to have a chance to play such a positive character again. When I read the first script I thought it was a fresh concept—here's this man who's really interested in history and is a bit of a scholar, but also is an archeological detective of sorts, a treasure hunter and even a glorified criminal, but who isn't violent in any way. There are some things to do this stimulate young people to look in their history books and I also thought that he was a character I could grow with.

How so?

I always try to find a way to play characters that are somehow synchronized with my own life and whatever I may or may not be going through so I can play them honestly. I figured this character of Ben Gates could grow just by virtue of the fact that there was some depth to him in the first place and that I have changed so much in the three years since I made the first movie.

In the first film, Ben Gates had to steal one of history's great historical treasures. Have you tapped the same on Book of Secrets?

Yeah, on the first one the last was, how do we steal the Declaration of Independence? In the upcoming film there are several, The set pieces are gorgeous. The Black Hills in South Dakota, that's a really amazing visual experience, and we shot there, in Mount Rushmore. Washington, photographs well each and every time I see it in a movie and this isn't an exception. There's one great shot of us in front of the White House. We're also going to be in London shortly and Buckingham Palace plays into it, and then we're in Paris. So it's big.

This is the fifth time you have worked with Jerry Bruckheimer. What's the secret of your working relationship?

Jerry is someone I kind of came up with. I remember us discussing for him for a movie called "Thief of Hearts," which is such a long time ago. I didn't do the film, but I would see him around town and he was always a very nice man and easy to talk to.

As far as your work goes, does making a big action film differ from doing a small, art-house film?

A big difference on a film such as National Treasure is that you will sometimes get new pages of dialogue on the day you're actually filming them. The actress sort of respond to what's already been shot and how it's working out and I think it keeps things very fresh and spontaneous, but at the same time it's always a bit of a high-wire act.

And you like that?

Yeah. There's a level of adrenaline to it that gives me an edge that I enjoy, though I don't know if I would feel very confident if it was not Jerry producing. Somehow you know each Jerry that the work will get done and it will be satisfying and sometime people...

How do you feel about having Helen Mirren play your mother?

I first saw her in a movie called "Excalibur" years ago and I loved her in that. And I would see where she would be my mother because we have a similar equilibrium and long face. I remember with Joe Voight on the first film, I said, Look I don't care who you cast to play my father as long as he's the greatest actor in the world. When you're on, there is no one way better. And the same for my mother. I said, I don't care who you cast as long as she's the greatest actress in the world. And the same thing with Helen: when she's on, there is no one way better.

Between Helen Mirren, Ed Harris and Harvey Keitel, you have a pretty talented ensemble on this film. Do you ever worry they will steal all your scenes?

Laughs) No more you encourage someone to be great in a movie the better that movie will be, however it happens. You know it's one of the more obnoxious things about film actors when they get competitive and start to worry about being upstaged and who's going to look at them, who gets the last word. To me that's when acting becomes kind of adolescent and makes me not want to be an actor, so I try to do everything I can to not be that way.

You've obviously contributed in many different film genres, from romances to action to science fiction. Do you think that has helped or hindered your career?

It's clear to me that I've successfully played everybody off the first of "Leaving Las Vegas" and I've played off the first of "National Treasure," because I keep doing a little bit of everything and inevitably everybody gets upset at some point. But I've not interested in a career based on one kind of movie. I'm the kind of person who needs to keep a sense of adventure and exploration going and it doesn't matter if it's what's going to work, but it is going to keep me interested, and that's my main goal. I'm not sure people always get it, but I'm genuinely interested in punk rock, rebellious, avant-garde films and I'm genuinely interested in big adventure movies. That's how I grew up. I like both. So, you know, I'm planning to keep pissing people off.

TREASURE hunting is tiring.

Sidewalk surfers

Diehard skaters welcome Royal Elastics to Manila, with a contest to bring world icons to the streets.

The Holy Grail of Deklart. Royal Elastics' dotArt 2007's participants' interpretation of this year's theme (one of the World's sure to make a believer out of anyone.

Decks on Parade. Intricately designed skate decks were on display at the first dotArt competition in the country presented by faceless sneakers royalty Royal Elastics.

Painting up a Storm. Top 6 graffiti writers in Australia Sitronic Mills drawn a Trinity to depict the Philippine's religious roots.

Graffiti Frenzy. Everyone in the audience was given the once in a lifetime chance to "vandalize" legally as they turn the stage to one huge canvas.

Super Selects

Go back in time or dream on

REVIVING ANA-log at LoneMania's LoneLover Tee Retreat Day

The artist-community jumps into a time machine and goes into rewind as LoneMania presents LoneLover Tee@1 at Cubao X in Marikina Shoe Expo.

Fresh from launching the LoneLover Tee exhibit at the BlankSoup Projects Artspace, gurus are once again invited to (un) be engaged in tees by crazy homographers.

On Nov. 17, homographers and curious members can come to the 8th Na Mga Anak Lones Manila Bazaar, Art-log Movement and The Humble Sessions starting 2 p.m.

Vinyl collectors can also bring their favorite vinyl records for an old school playlist party.

Jam with the lone masters at The Retailer Sessions, and share tips and stories of shooting photos with celebrity shoes and happy accidents.

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SATURDAY SEVEN

Coloring Our World

By Joana K. Mendoza

FILIPINO CULTURE IS blessed to be a combination of the best and the brightest aspects of other cultures.

We always find ways to liven up our surroundings, no matter how small or large or public those spaces may be. It is therefore no surprise that even our streets are dotted with what seem to be "colorful" inspirations.

Add to that, our government has designated an entire body, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), to ensure our streets remain entertaining.

As someone who doesn't drive, I have time to observe the changes in our roads over the years.

The beautiful lights on Ayala Avenue or Christmastime or the numerous signs in the street are there for my amusement.

Going from Edsa, one will notice the newest artistic building on the Guadalupe to MAKATI stretch. The MMDA building stands out in full color, covered in a wrought iron plant formation, a trademark of Jean Nouvel's (Institut du Monde Arabe) in Paris.

I happen to think the plant creeping up the side of the building is the ornamental wood cedrela (in sense, which is the same plant that is used to cover the unsightly chicken wire along the underpasses and nooks of the MRT.

The MMDA has made a significant contribution to the art world by adding two new colors previously unseen in our known spectrum. MMDA pink and blue are shades of bright pink and blue that without a doubt were created solely for the use of the MMDA to draw attention and to stop traffic.

The headquarters are of course painted in their signature colors, as well as tow trucks, watch posts and animals of the same two colors.

The designated branch of the government to beautify the city has certainly tried to do so. It started a major campaign a few years ago with catchphrases that appeared on the city's most visible and supposedly very boring walls.

The persons opposed to small circles of pinks, blues and greens in the unassuming, almost psychedelic prints. For some reason the politicos stayed small in relation to the size of the walls.

Form to Forget Function

As on the streets and painting on public monuments is common in many large cities, Los Angeles and Sydney have some of the most innovative art.

In a community in Sydney, a mural made entirely using spray paint by graffiti artists depict how different ethnic races should get along in a community. A hand-straining feeling from so many shades of spray paint.

Los Angeles has a mural that is a tribute to the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team. Fans of the team can be seen in the mural, which is also painted in the team's colors.

The MMDA has also been known to paint over graffiti on walls, which is a good thing, but it has also been known to paint over murals that have been painted by artists.

The rainbow on our streets, however, tend to be a little more family oriented and pastoral.

Consider the newest additions to the walls along Edsa in Makati: planters consist of a family walking toward the sea where we board public transportation (who paints friendly ... the child carrying a balloon).

Never mind that buses don't actually stop at the designated areas, at least we know where they are supposed to.

There are also reminders of our Filipino heritage, as depicted by the planter boxes of nipa huts and banana leaves, neatly trimed. Upon close inspection, these cuts are actually quite delicately made, the plants' veins and stems visible and detailed.

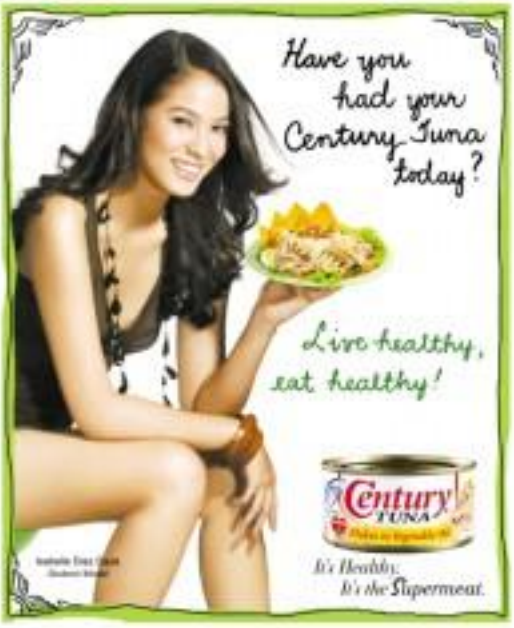
Like all great art, these pieces are opposed: happy from life's walk, the label MMDA HITTING GRAFFI is printed in all of who is responsible for destroying all the newest installations on the streets.

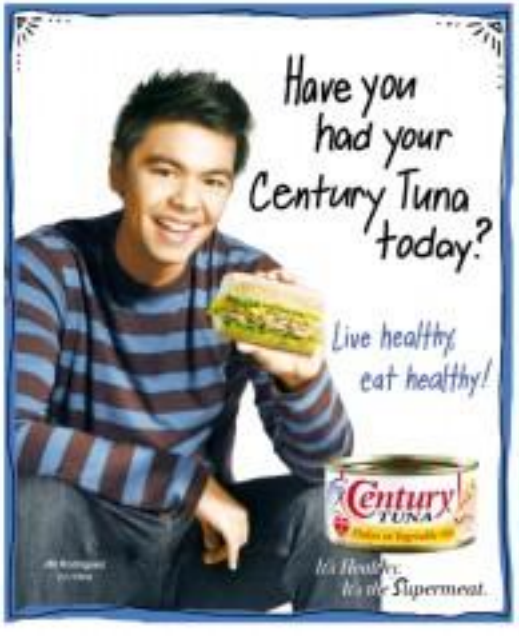
With all the time that they put painting concrete and building chicken wire barriers, they have neglected to dedicate time to more taxing efforts such as cleaning up the streets, rubberizing drainage to avoid flooding, and arresting reckless bus drivers.

In an already overcrowded city, less is more. The art of the MMDA has a long way to go in its esthetic development. From loud pink men's urinals, they have switched to light mobile roadside toilets (one can). Maybe they heard that mixed media was all the rage.

Quite a shame really, to the payment on the street by taxi drivers was probably made to dissuade people from their frequent patching.

With all the resources made available to the MMDA, they should perhaps come up with a unified style. Come on artists already. Something that symbolizes urban beauty. Minorities for the streets is the way to go.





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Livin' La Vida Vista

By Tito Dino

WITHIN THE flickering, quick-as-an-eyeblink landscape of a city famous for its perennial case of insomnia exists a hippie-than-thou space known for hyperfast hook ups and experienced users. An alleyway palaeyed with violet light leads to the inner sanctum. Inside, women who could pass off as Calvin Klein models serve free flowing bubbly to late the night, while a DJ dressed like Jurassic Bowl coolly spins tracks from his vintage vinyl collection.

A new club on the Manhattan grid? Hardly. It's the Windows Customer Experience Square on the Penn White Station to New York. Or the Avenue' living room, if they ever moved in Chelsea, but against the panoramic view of a mountain city embraced by the Hudson River, some of the latest sleek silver laptops are opened up tantingly for all to double click their hearts away to navigate Windows Vista. At the center of it all is the touchscreen of the "seamless digital experience," one swanky looking room set up with a large flat screen showing the Windows Navigation environment, an S Box, video games, and a keyboard atop a glass table. Oh, and a fluffy white couch.

WINDOWS view

E-volution

See, something big—massive—happened to life in the past decade thanks to the World Wide Web. Gone are the days of fuss and downloading when computers and searching tech-related were removed solely for hardcore geeks. The rest get to digitally survey this know all about the seamless integration of the digital experience into one's lifestyle. And that is unfailingly hip. Even everyday language has evolved: one can tout the googling and superglobal search Sunday night and neither activity is of the stress-enhancing kind. NOTE!

A man walks up and to his viewed eye of Mody, he asks if he could show off his favorite new toy. He is Stephen Birkhead, Microsoft group marketing manager. He whips out his mobile phone and reveals the Windows Live Search application, which showed the Guinness NYC guidance. "This will help you find any place in New York," he says. The name of a club is an underhand location a great one. Stephen types it out and voila, there up pops not just directions, but the actual location on the map, which you could navigate even further. Awesome.

WELL CONNECTED. Windows Senior Product Manager Dana Black reveals the seamless experience

Shortcut Above The Rest

A few minutes away, there is a display of the latest gadgets that would make any technomaniac salivate. Top of the line digital cameras, video recorders, readers, and wireless printers, all devices that have passed Certified for Windows Vista testing, needing no drivers to connect to your PC. A personal favorite is the Samsung SPH-P2V digital photo frame that flashes and shuffles pictures directly from your Flickr photo albums. "The laptop has become the new chauffeur. You have all these photos in there and no one gets to see them," says Stephen.

On that cue, he opens Windows Photo Gallery on the Vista laptop and navigates the snazzy living room area. The Photo Gallery not only organizes photos, it allows you to zoom in, crop, and adjust colors and upload to your personal Windows Live Spaces account, which acts as bedding space for images. You can even embed these enhanced photographs with Photo Email. That means no more hassle of downloading photos, as they appear on the email body. Wait . . . you do get a lot more things done with a shortcut.

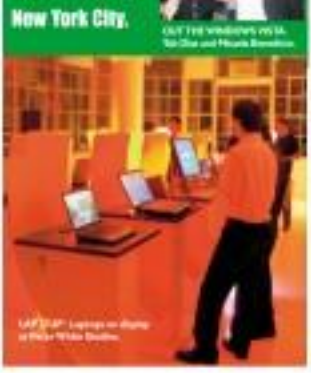
And these doorways are what set the Vista operating system apart. "It's like running the middleman between the PC and the Net," adds Stephen. Everywhere you're on line, you're still navigating a Windows environment. "That makes for a greater user experience."

Greater user experience. Years ago that would've sounded really boring, but today, it makes perfect sense. And that's really what it's about, isn't it? Digital screens enhancing life, and not limiting it. Not being prisoners of our own devices. La Dolce Vida. The password is out.

Special thanks to Eli Bernier, do of Perceptions, Ali Rajat of Waggener Edstrom and Igor d'Ong etc.

Super gets the first hand Windows Vista experience in New York City.

OUT THE WINDOWS VISTA. Tito Dino and Micaela Bernardino



LAP TOP. Laptops on display at Windows Vista Studios.

24/7

By Justin Cuenca-Dario and Sari Juan

SUPER RADAR

Today, **EXPERIENCE** making one of a kind jewelry at the Embossed Beaded Art bracelet design workshop and awaken the artist in you at the Dulo Kali Workshop Studio, Libertad Street, Mandaluyong. Learn how to make beaded-covered brooches and their various applications such as bangles, multi-link brooch to tiered neckpiece, satin-cord knotting and a lot more. For beginners, you can attend the beginner's workshop on Nov. 25. Call Rosemarie Fundoyanira at 717-3914 or text 0919) 481-1306.

SEEN positively shimmering this holiday season with Princess Light, the concrete 2007 Holiday Collection. As Lee clinics gift to you this season, all items will be 15 percent off (with a minimum purchase) until the 30 this (Monday, Nov. 19, plus, 30 percent off on selected items, along with special freebies for every minimum purchase. This treat-only comes once a year, so, ladies, listen to stock up on beauty finds from the world's top beauty brand. On sale at Rustan's branches in Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Alabang Town Center and Salcedo, and at Metromart, Mall of Asia.

SEEN the wonderful flavors of Italian cuisine at Tesoro, the new fine dining restaurant at Shark Reef Bistro (L20A corner Yakap Road, Ayala Center, Makati). Over lunch with internationally acclaimed Filipino-American novelist Jessica Hagedorn (who is in town for the staging of her play Dogeaters at the Ramon Theater (RCBC Plaza, Makati from Nov. 16 to Dec. 2), 24/7 discovered this treasure trove that took us to the old world with veal and spinach tortelli with porcini mushroom sauce, pan roasted rice snapper filet with saffron sauce, grilled lamb chops with red wine reduction, and hot chocolate cake with pistachio ice cream, all painstakingly prepared by Italian Chef Alessio Lobbo. We would recommend the wine from their award-winning list and executive lunch priced at P650 (inclusive of antipasto buffet and your choice of main course and dessert). With great food, attentive service and relaxed ambiance, tres chic and elegant setting, this is no doubt our restaurant of the moment. Call 867-0000 extensions 304 0 and 3345.

SEEN and gave with awe at the photographic and photographic essays of the country's foremost photojournalists Joe Zaragoza and Ed Santiago in "A Photographer's Walk to a Lifetime As a Freelancing Photographer" and "Photojournalism" at the Silver Lens Gallery (3335 Pasong Tamo Ext., Yupangco Bldg. 2, Makati) from Nov. 22 to Dec. 29. The chosen works in the exhibit, curated by Jose Enrique Soriano, shall be the best ones produced during the 70s, a critical time in Philippine Photojournalism, when photography was in its nascent state as a form of art. Call 816-0944.

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SATURDAY special

MASCOTS. Cantonwine establish himself as one of Hollywood's most promising new leading men.

JOHNSON AND PETTIS. Pint father and daughter in the family comedy "The Game Plan."

New stars light up the silver screen

By Mercer G. Torre

THE BRIGHTEST NEW lind on the big screen this month is 7-year-old Madison Pettis, who shares lead status with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in the current family comedy, "The Game Plan."

Little Madison topped a nationwide search due to her unique combination of sweetness and spunk. Her character had to have both qualities to melt Johnson's solid, cold heart in the movie, which cheekily combines sports and family issues.

"Madison's character, Peyton, isn't just a Shirley Temple ragamuffin," director Andy Fickman observes. "After all, to get to see the father (Johnson) she's never known, she pulls off a major con job. At the same time, she's going through a lot of hurt."

Comic sensibility

For his part, producer Gordon Gray recalls: "Madison has a rare comic sensibility for one so young. She's so smart that we continually laughed at what came out of her mouth."

Pettis is a complete newcomer to movie-making, but she does as well as "The Game Plan" that everyone else involved with agreed that the only way for her to go is up—and away!

Also for inevitable unknown vote acumen, Michael Cera and Jonah Hill, whose breakout source, "Superbad," is a certified sleeper hit. Made for less than $20 million, it was expected to do only so so business at the tills due to its lack of star value. But its gross-out humor and story (about two teenage friends in a quest for alcohol and girls in their final high school days) have made it top the box office and gross a stunning $121 million to date...and still rising!

Secret

The secret of the movie's unexpected success? Producer Judd Apatow lets the cat out of the bag: "I never think in terms of who's famous, I just think in terms of who's funny." Despite (or maybe because of) their bumbling ways, Cera and Hill made viewers crack up—and that's all to the good.

He's on the wrong side of 20, but James Marsden is also making Hollywood sit up and marvel at the wide range of roles he's assayed in only a few years, to be convinced to establish himself as one of the movies' most promising new leading men.

After seventeen-calling roles in "Hairspray," "Superman Returns" and the "X-Men" series, Marsden's next entry is "Enchanted," a romantic-comedy character on he takes

One-dimensional prince

In "Enchanted," he's cast as Prince Edward, a one-dimensional "prince much too charming" who looks for his beloved Princess Giselle—only to find her in loud and foxy modern-day Manhattan.

The film pokes a lot of fun at Prince Edward's character and his frothy fairy-tale ways, but Marsden isn't put off by this. In fact, he loves the ribbing and proceeds to interact even more shamelessly than ever!

That's the sign of a well-cast and getting actor who isn't worried about how he's made to look and act—as long as it makes the character he plays more enjoyable for viewers to watch!

CERA AND HILL. Typical the sleeper hit, "Superbad."

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Museum aims to capture essence of Hollywood and movies

LOS ANGELES—AFTER HOPKINS the movie business sells Oscars for more. In 80 years, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is planning to celebrate cinema another way—in 3-D hologram in the heart of Hollywood.

The academy has commissioned an architect to design what is probably the world's first museum dedicated to capturing the full scope of filmmaking.

15 branches

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures will occupy two city blocks near the Dolby Theatre, where the Academy Awards are held. The movie-making exhibits represented will correspond with the academy's 15 branches—including actors, producers, directors and screenwriters.

But, one thing is certain: "It's going to be what it should be: a monument to the art of film," Academy president Sid Ganis told the Associated Press.

"It's going to be immersive. It will express what film is about, and how it has shaped world cultures. I want people to understand how film relates to the world around them, how storytelling in the film sense is accomplished, and how through the medium, we move ahead to our lives," Ganis explained. "I hope that's not too highfalutin', but that's what I'm hoping for!"

The academy has long-resisted how to celebrate a comprehensive film museum, "but not with the gusto, energy, and the commitment we've had over the last few years," he added.

Announcement

That fervor was reflected with the recent announcement of an architect for the museum's complex: French firm, Atelier Christian de Portzamparc.

"Film is the art of the present, and I link this to architecture," stated de Portzamparc, who won the Pritzker Prize, architecture's highest honor, in 1994. In his hands, the museum will "become an important 21 st office," Ganis added.

Academy members are watching with consternation to renegotiate the museum's contents and design. Fundraising, to the tune of $400 million, is expected to begin next year. Construction will begin in 2009. The facility opens in 2012. AP

REALITY shows dominate TV industry's programming lineup.

Three new channels spice up Sky Cable's programming

By Edmund L. Sicam

SKY CABLE IS ADDING THREE NEW channels: Velvet, Metro and Bulls, effective Jan. 1 (next year). It started airing previews of these channels' programs these past weeks. Judging from the shows I've caught, viewers are in for a lot of reality-based shows:

"American Inventor" comes from "Asia's got Idol" judge, Simon Cowell, and Britisher-owner Peter James. But, instead of singing, our upstarts come to the auditions with what they think will be the next great retail product.

Six finalists

Like "American Idol," the show holds auditions in six American cities, and whittles down the list to six finalists who will each receive $50,000 to develop their inventions for a month. Viewers will then vote for the winning inventor—who will receive one million dollars!

As you can imagine, the auditions come up with a variety of entries, many of them outlandish and downright absurd. There's this guy whose entry was a cloth that is activated via calling a magic wand to ward off animal attacks.

Another one was fuming mad when the judges didn't like his entry—an electronic guitar whose jack was located in front instead of the back of the instrument. Still another brought a raincoat that enabled its owner to pee in public through a compartment hidden inside the raincoat.

There wasn't anything spectacular offered by the inventors. Two entries that got the judges' nod were a bike with a seat on the handlebar and a large shower with a bag inside it to make anything filling water during floods. The show's entertainment value lay in the oftentimes ridiculous gadgets offered by contestants, and the snide comments of the judges—none of whom, however, could match Cowell's acerbic tongue.

BROWN. Tries to shed some unwanted pounds on "Celebrity Fit Club."

Closer to "Al" is "So You Think You Can Dance," whose contestants show off their terpsichorean skills. As usual, it was the nondancers who caught my attention. One obsessions participant believed he was the world's best dancer—but it was obvious he couldn't dance to save his life! When he was rejected, he stormed cursing the judges, so all we heard were bleeps, because the language he used was not suitable for TV.

Then, I realized this was the same guy who also auditioned for "Al"—and got on the same nerve! He couldn't sing, either, but he got beside when Cowell and company said no to him. I have a feeling he only wanted his 15 minutes of fame.

Various activities

"Celebrity Fit Club" features eight overweight celebrities who take part in various activities designed to get them to shed pounds and get in shape. Each week, each person is given a target which entails according to their present weight. The program is supervised by a nutritionist, a physical trainer and a psychologist.

To the referee I watched, the only celebrity I recognized was Daniel Baldwin, who's not as well known as his brother, Alec. The others (like Mia Tyler, Ralphie May, Kim Coles, and Wendy Kaufman) are probably recognizable in the US. The physical trainer, Harvey Walden, had a run-in with one of the celebrities, because she did not bring her sneakers and was criticized for not being serious about losing weight.

The highlights of the show was when each of them stepped on a platform that was actually a weighing scale, and the judges revealed whether they had achieved their goal that week. All of them did—they lost an average of seven pounds each!

What makes the show entertaining is the feeling of superiority you get watching celebrities sweating it out while you relax in your easy chair. One of the contestants, a comedian, weighed more than 400 pounds, and he was really having a hard time moving around!

In "Meet the Medics," an unsuspecting person walks into a scripted cosmetic store where a licensed family lives in a real house in a real neighborhood. He doesn't know that there are hidden cameras all over the house recording his reactions.

In the episode I watched, a computer tycoon finds himself agreeing to undergo what he's told is a "routine" exam for his daughter. Later, he's caught in a compromising situation when the real boyfriend shows up! This is an extended version of some of the pranks played on "Girls Behaving Badly," and succeeds because the cast is able to convince the victim that he has a real problem. In the end, he's told that it was all a practical joke.

Last man standing

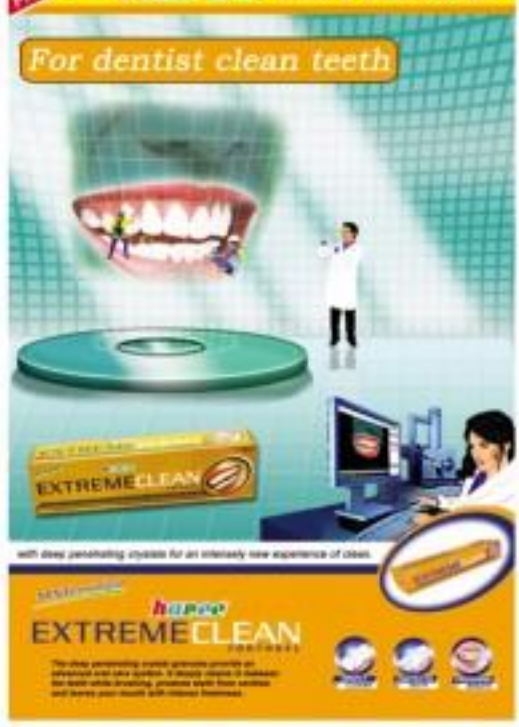
A sports-based reality show, "Ball Breakers," features a game of nine-ball pool with four contestants who each start out with $50,000. Unlike other ball-based shows, one has the players betting on the outcome of their boss, as well as whether a player can make a shot. The last man standing goes home with $50,000. The game is easy enough to understand with the additional attraction of bets being made to onscreen viewers.

Other interesting reality shows include "Gay Straight or Taken," where a girl dates three guys and decides which one is which; "I Want to be a Billion," where Cathy Hilton, the mother of Paris, teaches contestants how to live through an era long with everyone getting a $2,000,000 "free hand"—and a taste of the lifestyle of the rich and famous—and "Tuck on Campus," where college students must live and attend classes with their parents.

Controversy

Among the reality-based shows, "The View" is the most eagerly awaited because it has created controversy last only for the topics discussed on the show, but also because of some off-camera happenings.

Everyone is still talking about Rosie O'Donnell's departure from the show after she had a run-in with Donald Trump, as well as her heated debate with colleague, Elisabeth Hasselbeck. O'Donnell has been replaced by Whoopi Goldberg, who's more subdued than Rosie.



Directing stars

By Nestor U. Torre

DIRECTING ACTORS WHO ARE STARS IS quite a trick. As you're directing the actor, the star aspect of his persona often gets in the way.

The actor part is supposed to be ready to do anything and everything to make the role as capsule-box credible and memorable, but the star part has limits. Why? Because many stars become popular by playing a signature character pretty much over and over again...for true star, if they make a radical shift, the viewing public won't cheer on them as much.

Difficult role

In addition, some stars feel they're too successful and popular to have to work as hard at a role. "The people like me the way I am," they think enough. "So, why do I have to embarrass myself playing a difficult role?"

The answer to that is: If stars keep doing pretty much the same roles over and over again for years and even decades, time will come when they will be too old to play those signature roles, and they'll look ridiculous. Also, their fans will tire of them, and transfer their allegiance to a fresher and younger talent.

The problem is, even those of this happening should prompt even established stars to get off their pedestals, reanalyze their careers, and work as hard as they did when they were rookies.

This should also prompt their directors, who sometimes can be them, to stop acting as cheerleaders to stars when they're handling popular humanoids.

Directors should force themselves to ignore the star aspect and focus on the acting part of the lovable they mentor. In the long run, their star-friends will be grateful for the "tough love."

Those thoughts came to mind, because we've noted a general deterioration of theatre acting/directing on TV and in the movies. Even our best actors are running in lurid, embarrassing performances, to viewers' general dismay.

Melodramatic

On TV shows like "Maala-sia Mo Kaya?" used to challenge stars with difficult characters to portray. These days, however, even the performances on "MMK" have turned melodramatic and overly "indicated" for effect.

Things are much worse on telenovelas and fantaseryes, which specialize in hand-on-cuff, wifty improbable characters. Sadly, some of these storied characters are assigned to our setting icons, who despite their great talent aren't able to rescue them from mediocrity.

And yet, some of these failed portrayals are held up as fine examples of the thespic craft, and even win awards! This sets the wrong standards for the next actors and resources—and we're all the poorer for it.

Rule

In the movies, mainstream productions have become so commercial that "for-effect" performances are now the rule. It's a good thing that character-driven, digital productions are filling in the blanks to fix its challenging characterizations are concerned, which is why some major stars have agreed with alacrity to act in them.

Here, again, directors are key, because they motivate stars to come up with their portrayals, so they go real, bold or indifferent.

The fact that the Joseph-level has dipped so low in these parts indicates that many directors have been remiss in upholding the requisite standards—or, it's time for them to reevaluate their own criteria for good work, and live up to them!

Latin Americans ask, 'Where are our movies?'

"CAMINHOS" (TOP), "CITY OF GOD" (ABOVE) AND "NACHLICAE" (LEFT). Made the rounds of the festival before they were shown in Latin American countries.

SAO PAULO—LATIN AMERICAN cinema may be entering a Golden Age, but the movies aren't sometimes travel the world before they can get a showing on their home turf.

The governments of Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil and others are funneling vast money to encourage local productions, and the results are gaining wide acclaim, but they are struggling in a continent saturated with Hollywood blockbusters.

Films must first reach international festivals like Cannes or Venice to have a chance of getting a distributor around the world, before they can come home to Latin America.

Very difficult

"It's very difficult to watch Latin American movies in Latin American cinemas," shrugged Daniel Andrade, who was in Sao Paulo for a film festival from Oct. 18 to Nov. 4, when he was showing his new movie, "Nachlicae Town."

He said "City of God" and "Central Station," both Oscar-nominated Brazilian movies, got to his native Brandon only through their North American distributors. "Tatuandan," a top Brazilian movie in 2005, is in seven theaters in Rondonopolis.

Adriana Oliveira, an independent distributor who coordinates the Sao Paulo festival for Mostra Internacional de Cinema, said he must go to Europe to get Latin American movies to show in Brazil, such as the acclaimed Chilean movie, "Machuca." "It's like movies in Belize have two options: Go abroad or buy pirated DVDs," added Lourenc, who was showing his documentary, "The Beats of Bangu," at the Sao Paulo festival.

Aided with Cannes exchanges, a few movies now get aside. "How do you find space in a market intended by American blockbusters for a little Brazilian production, plus five Cuban films?" asked cinema researcher Michele Soares Caetano.

Piracy has provided a solution, at least in some countries, said Roberto Hernandez, Mexico Acapulco. "People who like movies in Belize have two options: Go abroad or buy pirated DVDs," added Lourenc, who was showing his documentary, "The Beats of Bangu," at the Sao Paulo festival.

"You can find everything in DVD copies—Latin American movies, Czech movies, Iranian movies," he explained. Belize has only 50 movie theaters, showing mostly Hollywood movies dubbed in Spanish.

Piracy was the route to the most celebrity success of "Elite Squad," a controversial story about police killings in the shanty towns of Rio de Janeiro—and the most successful Brazilian movie this year.

After immense success as a pirated DVD, it was released in theater in Portuguese, and has sold 2.1 million tickets, compared with 6.1 million for "Spider-Man 3."

In Venezuela, production has jumped from a half dozen movies per year to an expected 20 in 2008, thanks to help from President Hugo Chavez, said Mariana Rondon, who was premiering her second feature, "Pelokondo from Lamalgard."

She had movie was not even shown in her country—because no distributor was interested. "Postcards from Leningrad."

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PBO unveils November treats

JUDY ANN SANTOS PLAYS THE TITLE role in "Miss Piggy," PBO's Premiere's big draw for November. Also watch out for "Greatest Hits Finale!" with pop icons, Nov. 2; Pinoy, Pugil Alejandro, Iby Yalena, Nonoy Zuñiga and Marco Sison, and Unz Nov. 23 at 9:50 p.m.) "The Cooler" with Maria Bello, William H. Macy and Shi Rakhefet.

PBO Hallmarking Premiere treats kids to the free showing of "Mr. Magicmen's Movie Emporium," a fantasy romp. Scribbled by Dustin Hoffman, Jason Statham and Natalie Portman, in Cagayan de Oro City at 7 p.m. on Nov. 26 at SM CDO Cinema One. Plus "TV Anime Carlo Special" at PCB's 2 p.m. on Nov. 30.

Other movie or concert highlights: "Much B Pop Heartbreak," Nov. 10, "Beloved," Nov. 20, "Kinde R," Nov. 21, "Ang Cruz Mo, Cruz Me Na" Nov. 22, "Ang Boyfriend Kong Gusto," Nov. 24, "Kilabi ng Bilog, Kulelat ng Eskuela," Nov. 25, "Flights of the Champions," Nov. 26, "Kpop on Pinoy," Nov. 7, "My Pledge of Love," Nov. 28, "Gimme Pinoy," Nov. 29, "Epifanio, Ang Bilas Ko."

Movies on TV

On Cinemax today at 9 a.m., "Rivel on a Wire," Nov. 18 at 6:30 a.m., "Where Eagle," Nov. 19 at 7 a.m., "Up Periscope," Nov. 20 at 11 a.m., "Losers and the Aggressors," Nov. 21 at 7 a.m., "Nobi When it Rains," Nov. 22 at 5:30 p.m., "Man of the House," Nov. 23 at 9 a.m., "The Sons of Katie Elder"

ADAMS. Plays a princess in fantasy feature, "Enchanted."

SUSANNOR Host Beth Unz show on Q-11.

'Beowulf' in 3D

Robert Zemeckis' new fantasy adventure, "Beowulf," is being shown in 3D format at the Imax Theater at SM Mall of Asia. Inspired by the ninth century English epic poem, the film combines digitally enhanced live-action filmmaking technology with an all-star cast led by Angelina Jolie, Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins and John Malkovich.

New tracks

The repackaged edition of Yoly Manzano's "World's Greatest Dance Steps" features six new tracks, including "Papaya Chatacha," "Beautiful Girls" and "Sexpek."

Join the Extreme Papaya video contest on Manzano's game show, "Pilipinas, Game Ka Ba Ito?," on Channel 2.

'Snow White'

Judee Philippines' adaptation of "Snow White" will be staged at Marinell Lee Pilion today, as presented by former President Mutya Pilar and Rep. Cynthia Villar. Call 872-5169.

'Enchanted'

Amy Adams plays Princess Giselle in the fun-fantasy film, "Enchanted." The fairytale princess is thrust into present day Manhattan by an evil queen portrayed by Susan Sarandon, and changes her views on life and love after meeting a humorous lawyer (Patrick Dempsey).

Abdul Candao

Mission-based singer Abdul Candao sings on "Concerts at the Park" tomorrow at 5 p.m. He will perform solos and songs by Lebar Zeller, Kalman and Giles.

'Seven Days of Laughter'

Don't miss master impersonator Willie Nepomuceno's show, "Seven Days of Laughter," today at 6 p.m. at Eastwood's Central Plaza, Eastwood City.

Israeli Film Festival

At 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 20, the Israeli Film Festival opens at Greenbelt 3, Cinema 5. The opening film is "Summer to Run With," a story about growing up and discovering the raw meaning of friendship and love.

'Fred Claus'

Sneak previews of "Fred Claus" will be held in Greenbelt cinemas on Nov. 19 and 20. The fabricle movie stars Vince Vaughn as Santa Claus' "black sheep" brother Paul Giamatti plays Santa.

'The Nutcracker'

Philippine Ballet Theater stages the well-loved holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker" today at 3 and 8 p.m. at the CCP Call 832-3641.

'Planet Q'

The pop-rock singing group, Imagenyo, hosts a TV variety show, "Planet Q," a one-hour program that showcases interesting features on animals, nature and the environment.

Mendoza, Cathy, Joaquí debut in New Voice musical

Menchu Lauchengco Yulo, Joaquí Valdes and Cathy Azcarra make their New Voice Company debut in the theater company's reimagined staging of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," which runneverey Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m., at the Music Museum.

Sunny Abad likewise appears in his first New Voice production in a special cameo. The production also features of the special participation of Toni Almoud, who voices the Giant's Wife.

The Tony Award-winning musical—which follows the story of the Baker and his Wife in their search to find how cursed items that belong to Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack (from "Jack and the Beanstalk") and Little Red Riding Hood to break a witch's curse—features a talented cast that also includes Michael Williams, Lynn Sherman, Annie Wilson, Jose Sonnen, John Alonzo, Angela Padilla, John Wolhoff, Madeleine Nettler, Mikey Mahumudes and Cesel Consaup. Call 890-5407.

Post-birthday dinner

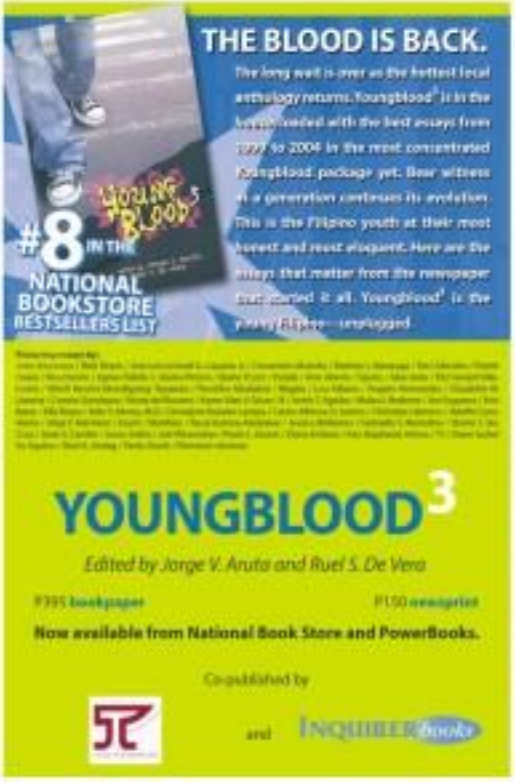
Directors of the Western Schools de Pue Foundation are celebrating Archbishop Oscar Cruz's retirement's 75th birthday with a post-birthday dinner tomorrow at the Camp Aguinaldo Officers' Club. Help Blanco is set at 5:30 p.m. Alice Gimeo, Jose Mari Chan will sing for the birthday celebrant and his guests. Cory Quirino will emcee the affair, which is a fundraising event to build the Haven for Retired Priests in Santa Magdarilog, Solano, Cagayan. For details, text 0917 589-2521.

HIPOPHOBENO Performs at Eastwood today.

CAMS Stop at Camp Aguinaldo comedian.

VALDEMIANO GIAMATTI. Stars in the Yuletide comedy, "Fred Claus."

ISRAELI Film Fest unveils at Greenbelt 3 starting Nov. 20.



CURTIS. Featured in PBO Special.

YULO, HOWARD AND KENNEA. Play pivotal roles in NYC's Sondheim musical.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Three new channels spice up Sky Cable's programming /f2

SATURDAY Special

Movie theme songs no longer rule the pop charts

TUNES (from l) Mariah Carey, Celine Dion and Whitney Houston sang "The Way We Were," "Dirty Dancing," and "Say Anything" used to lend it even the airwaves.

LOS ANGELES—THERE WAS a time around 1997 when, no matter where you were—in the car, on the StairMaster, at the dentist's office—you couldn't help but hear "My Heart Will Go On," the soaring Celine Dion ballad from "Titanic."

Brainwave was fertile, it went on, and so, and so—an example not just of great marketing, but of one kind of movie theme song that was no longer extant.

Big and poignant

Those modern songs were big and poignant on their own, but they were also used skillfully within their films. They became "a cinematic experience, in the first Oscar-nominated categories Diane Warren pulsed.

Yet decades, theme songs like "Evergreen" or "Nathan's Theme" or "(You Have) The Time of My Life" were huge radio hits, often peaking at No. 1 on the pop chart, and going on to win the Academy Award for Best Original Song. (All the same were denied in list have re-entered the honor—the list of winners throughout the 1970s, 80s and '90s is staggering.)

Mood

But, in the past few years, filmmakers like Cameron Crowe and Wes Anderson (following the example set by directors like Martin Scorsese) have been more likely to choose pre-existing songs or just-make a moment or create a certain mood.

Then, there's soundtracks—like the stars for Crowe's "Vanilla Sky" movie, son's "Southwest" or

MOVIE /f2

SM CINEMA

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

"ARMAGEDDON." Featured trio No. 1 hit, "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing."

Movie theme songs . . .

Jack Bruff's "London Stars" – go on to be popular themselves.

It seems there's just no room on the pop charts anymore for an "Up Where We Belong" (Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes) or a "Take My Breath Away" (Berlin "Top Gun"). Eminem's "Lose Yourself," from the 2002 film, "8 Mile," is the rare Oscar winner that's also had radio success. As catchy as "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" was, from 2005's "Hustle & Flow," it wasn't ready to die Juvenile.

What made those songs work, Warren explains, is that "they're hit songs, first and foremost. They fit the movie, and they exist outside the movie."

EMINEM. His single, "Lose Yourself," won an Oscar in 2003.

Oscar nomination

"I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing," which earned Perry an Oscar nomination, was a hit song," Warren adds. "It was a love song with 'Armageddon,' and it was used very well. But, I think Aerosmith would have had a hit with that song, anyway."

So, where did those original tunes get their Oscar-or Grammy-winning magnetism? Scouts found the "Dreamgirls" song at a Scouts dance for "Dreamgirls," who also wrote the music for Brad Silverlake's "The Heiress State." Golda Hunsdown don't bother to seek them out anymore.

"When movies used to do," he continues, it "created a nostalgia that was specific to the film itself, and the only way to do that was to use original music."

Of course, radio has changed really. It has become more genre-specific over the past decade, which hurts enormous movie songs with intended mass appeal, and Ed Kelly is I'd on Sirius satellite radio's top-40 channel.

He points out that adult contemporary music, where many of those movie themes have been popular traditionally, sat in broken down. Rather to subgroups—they can either be "hot," "urban" or "soft." "There's so much fragmentation that it's hard to find the right song," he asserted. "At a result, they stopped looking."

Singer-songwriter Jennifer Lawler, whose music appears in the Steve Carell series, "Dan in Real Life," thinks tastes have changed irrevocably from the 1970s and '80s.

Important decision

Director Hawkins, daughter of veteran Irish filmmaker Jim Sheridan, who's directing for the first time with the musical "August Rush," considered using songs from Hendrix band, The Frames, but made "an important decision" to go with original music.

The movie follows Chris's connection between the lead singer of a rock band (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), a classically trained cellist (Keri Russell), and the boy's long lost son (Freddie Highmore), who was to connect to his family through song.

"We had three music supervisors burning down Ryan original songs for Jonny Rhys Meyers' band to perform and for Jonny to sing," Sheridan recalled. "I didn't want precocious-sounding material, it was important for the film to feel real."

John Sayles also wanted original music for "Honeydripper," about real jobs joints in 1950 Alabama, rather than choose blues or R&B songs people already know. Sayles oversaw several of the tunes, something he's done for previous films as diverse as "Lone Star" and "Sunshine State."

Special moment

"We can tailor something more specifically by writing something to fit that special moment," he reasoned. Plus, writing original music is more cost-efficient, the longtime independent filmmaker added. "The film rights for many films also way up from when I began. Larger publishing companies have bought out the smaller ones, so you can't [bid] bargains anymore. These days, it's rare to get a song for less than $5,000. If it's a familiar song, it can shot up to hundreds of thousands."

Bentley, picking the perfect pop song isn't as easy as it seems. The score, says Cohen, who has directed iconic music moments in such movies as "Say Anything" and "Almost Famous."

Famous scene

The famous scene in "Say Anything" in which John Cusack holds a stereo above his head outside Ione Skye's window and plays Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes," at least featured a different scene.

"That scene worked to be the perfect song. The scene brought to a song, where it came in and write for that moment, but it didn't work," he recalls. "Starting worked but 'In Your Eyes?' AP

Local indie scene thrives at Cinekatipunan

By Nestani Tiare

RECENTLY, AS YOU MAY HAVE noticed, local independent films have been enjoying more time in the spotlight than usual. The local indie scene generally flourishes (and struggles) underground, and it's not often that the general moviegoing public is even aware of what's going on.

While this scenario may change these days, more and more people are growing tired of what seems to be the moribund state of mainstream cinema, and this results in an upsurge of interest in the fresh and innovative ideas that the indie scene has to offer.

New projects

One of the few venues where you can view new projects of fresh, up-and-coming and traditional indie filmmakers is Mag-net Café on Kamputan ave. The café gallery performance venue hosts Cinekatipunan, a free daily screening of indigenous films by local and foreign filmmakers.

For the last two Saturdays of this month, today and on Nov. 24, Cinekatipunan is presenting films of alumni from the prestigious Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), in celebration of the school's 30th anniversary.

Through films in rest one of the 60 Dekh Chai students of the PHSA, major in, many of the graduates are making a name for themselves in cinema. An event not to be missed, PHSA Nights at Mag-net's Cinekatipunan promises not just films, but free performances and time with its featured filmmakers, as well.

Editorial films take avant-garde today with featured shorts from new and seasoned filmmakers alike. Screening from 5 p.m. are King Conti's "Unang Araw"; Jess Bell's "Ignorante" and "Coup Fleur"; Karl Castro's "Mayuad on Daggwas ng Wikkala," and Raymond Red's "Ruins."

"Unang Araw" and "Ignorante" are both public service ads running approximately one minute each and are part of "Rights," an omnibus film that deals with the issue of human rights violations.

"Coup Fleur" is a hilarious political satire from Red, whose "Pain Things" is also currently showing at Robinsons Galleria's indiecine. "Mayuad on Daggwas ng Wikkala," a 22-minute short about the trials of the merchandising process, is directed by upcoming filmmaker Karl Castro.

Raymond Red's "Ruins," featuring Eddie Garcia, needs no introduction. Winner of the 2000 Palme D'Or for Best Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival, this brief (less than 15 minutes) movie packs quite a punch.

Forum

After the screening, "Red Talk," a forum with Raymond and Jun Red and Carol Buenaflord, will be held, followed by a live performance of the Makiling Ensemble band.

PHSA shares the limelight with Miriam College on Nov. 24, with the latter presenting student shorts. The PHSA program, Mr. Collaboration, as its title implies, showcases a mix of documentaries, animation, shadowplay and dance.

Featured in the program are "Pagkiba," performed by the Anino Shadowplay Collective, video by visual artist Dan Sakulkoo and "Ina Today, Look" and "Twinkle," performed by Mona Abella, video by Dan Sakulkoo. "Gripo," an animated piece by Carlo Inlayo, "Under Me a Child's Death in Adult Size," performed and choreographed by Donna Montenida, video by Pablo Bigbigawa, and "Wish," a documentary by young filmmakers Adjani Amorpo.

For a different cinematic experience, check out what Cinekatipunan and the PHSA have to offer this November. Screenings start at 5 p.m.—and they're free!

GARCIA. Featured in Raymond Red's "Ruins."

Cont. from cover

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 BIOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 THE GAME PLAN
PREMIERE THEATRE
SUPER BIRD

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Shangri-La Plaza

NOW SHOWING

Half his size, twice the trouble

...and she's moving in.

DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON

THE GAMEPLAN

She's got killer grades and a killer resume. Now, she's in a job that's killing her.

SCARLETT JOHANSSON LAURA LINNEY

THE NANNY DIARIES

FROM MAKING THE GRADE TO MAKING THE BED

NOW SHOWING

NOW SHOWING

AFTER "THE GRUDGE" & "THE MESSENGERS" COMES ANOTHER TERRIFYING MASTERPIECE FROM SAM RAIMI THE DIRECTOR OF "SPIDERMAN 1,2&3"

BOOGEYMAN 2

FEAR IN THE FLESH

Spectacular...

From page G4

isn't going to be of the battlefield variety. As for the dragon that brings about the great horror end, well, it turns out to have a more personal connection to Beowulf.

All three—gunmen of paintings, but for power, and plain old lust—are elements not present in the original, but they give the story more weight and make the titular character a more interesting person.

Innovations

People, however, don't flock to the cinemas for a film's plot or characterization. "Beowulf" is a movie whose innovations in 3-D animation and performance-capture technology have long been awaited.

Zemeckis, who's been concentrating on making movies in this digitalized medium since 2004's "The Polar Express," shows us how the technology has advanced. Though the characters' skin still looks waxy and their eyes still aren't quite real enough, everything has a smoother and more integrated feel.

The movie's action sequences—and there are quite a few—are gratifyingly spectacular, and the soft, appropriately mythic lighting makes the medium work. Its visual personalities and the sensationally arresting, soundtrack script will engage audiences. Zeke's gold-crazed premier share is sure to arouse a curiosity demographic.

Still, despite being lauded on an actual epic, "Beowulf," the movie, isn't grand or powerful enough to see itself. But, then again, Zemeckis doesn't seem to be aiming for that.

We, it's fun to watch, but if you really want to be wowed, you'd love bound in the nearest Imax cinema to get the complete 3-D experience!

NOW SHOWING

All Ages Admitted

Half his size, twice the trouble

...and she's moving in.

DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON

THE GAMEPLAN

Paying it forward

SIR ALTHAR GLD man walked into Pasay Mayor Joey Marquez's office and said, "I want to donate a piece of land for you to build a school on." Dumbfound, Mayor Medina entrusted the office of Lt. Col. Agripino Manalo, the man who offered the donation spread, people were amazed by Manalo's generous offer. But, it was the old man's desire to make a contribution in the town that he grew up in. He wanted to share what he had and leave a legacy for future generations.

Golden years

But, some people speculated the offer. This incident brings to mind a story in the ancient Vedic literature about a powerful king who left his kingdom after reaching his golden years.

At the twilight of his life, a great sage advised him to prepare for his impending death and leave material opulence behind. He wanted to focus on the actual goal of his existence—his relationship with the Supreme.

One day, the ultimate woke up and found the king gone. He took making and as we ran with him—he walked out of his kingdom and proceeded to the forest. He lived a simple life and offered it to the Supreme Being.

Lotus Pond

R. Valencia and S. Bismarck

Wealth

If such a king can give up all his wealth, why can't we do the same? Why do we hold on to life's material burdens?

The materialistic society applauds those who accumulate more and questions those who have no appetite for unpredicted riches. Some people don't see the virtue of spiritual wealth. They seek security in flimsy and glittery shelters.

Wise men are aware that material resources become truly valuable only if they're used in the service of the Supreme Being, and for the welfare of the children. There's higher and deeper satisfaction in giving one's life and possessions for the ultimate cause. There's peace and happiness in serving the Supreme.

On his journey "back home," Manalo took a big step forward by making a sincere offering. We can learn from his generosity and wisdom!

All Ages Admitted

THIS FAIRYTALE PRINCESS IS ABOUT TO MEET A REAL PRINCE CHARMING.

Disney ENCHANTED

In Cinemas November 21

Eastwood City

Malaysian Days

Eastwood City

Seven Days of Laughter Eastwood City

featuring Willie Nepomuceno

November 17, 2007

Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

687-6963 GUARANTEED SEATS

Spectacular action scenes spice up Zemeckis' modern take on 'Beowulf'

By Maricel Torre

IT MAY BE THE MOST FAMOUS, AS WELL as the only surviving Old English heroic epic poem in existence, but anyone who had to read "Beowulf" for English Lit will tell you that it's hardly what you'd call a page-turner.

Though of much interest to historians and literary scholars, for most people, "Beowulf" has, counterpriningly enough, been more of an ordeal to get through rather than something we've enjoyed. Director Robert Zemeckis' latest motion-capture take on this centuries-old tale, however, changes that.

Original tale

Injecting life, excitement, sex, and a good helping of camp to the story of a man battling a monster, the monster's mother and, later, a dragon, the movie's more adaptation doesn't exactly remain faithful to the original tale, but your ordinary moviegoing public is probably not going to mind.

The script, penned by author Neil Gaiman and "Fifty Reasons" co-writer, Roger Avary, has done away with many of the 3,180-line epic's details, and to scriptwriters have added quite a few of their own.

The plot's bare bones are still there: An old king's mead hall is being menaced by a monster; a hero from across the seas slays the monster, confronts the monster's mother, and later becomes king. After reigning for many years, he dies while killing another menacing monster (this time, a dragon).

In the cinematic version, however, the overall (Ray Winstone) is not the stoic character of old, but a flawed mortal whose motivations aren't always noble and pure. Then, there's the monster Grendel's mother (who's a real monster in the purest).

In the film, however, she is transformed into a 7.13 performance-captured, nude bargaining chip coated with gold. She drips with the promise of great powers. As you can guess, Beowulf's confrontation with her

SPECTACULAR ID

WHO I ONE. Portrays the flawed hero in the big-screen adaptation of the only surviving Old English epic.

AT THE CINEMAS

AT THE MALLS

SATURDAY Special

Jake Gyllenhaal takes rumors in stride

LOS ANGELES—PRIMARY Jake Gyllenhaal was just in a joking mood. Or maybe, because his mom, scriptwriter Naomi Foner, was around, he wanted to keep the press on light.

Jake always gives honest-ringed interviews, but on this particular Sunday morning, he was especially funny. Even on the few answers that he managed to be somewhat serious, he couldn't help but end them with amusing quips.

When told that sometimes people mistake his acclaimed film, "Brokeback Mountain," for Indiana Jones-style movie for TV movie, "Broken Trail," he drolled that both movies employed the same make-up artist. Then, he quipped, "And that was Uncle's mustache. I went to 'Brokeback.'"

Jake's impressive acting career is, at twenty-seven, decade. He's one of the finest young actors today. In the political thriller, "Semblance," he costars with rumored girlfriend, Reese Witherspoon, but they don't have scenes together. Also in the movie are Meryl Streep and Peter Sarsgaard, who's married to the actor's equally gifted sister, Maggie Gyllenhaal.

GYLLENHAAL: "Follow-hood requires presence of mind and selflessness. I don't know if I have those qualities just yet, but being a dad is something that I look forward to." AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert T. Nakadate

Coveted role

When Jake wants to play a role in a movie, he really goes after it. He confessed how he called up director Sam Mendes at 2 a.m. to ask for the coveted role in the Golf War drama, "Jarhead," his theory: "It was an honor to be able to call on his director and have the confidence to say, 'I can play this part.' I told Sam, 'I will throw up in the sand for you!'"

In the following excerpts, note that this is not Jake's press conference. The journalists' anecdotes are belong to, as are all questions ever mine. We can't take all the credit—or blame—for them.

Peter told us that you have the best job in the world—being an uncle to Rutinos [three-year-old Maggie's baby]....

It's wonderful to see the dynamic of a family change when a new life comes along. Everybody becomes his best self, and not in a cheesy way. Maybe it's actually cheesy [laughing]—but never mind. It feels wonderful! Paulina is outstandingly person, like her parents!

Are you looking forward to being a father yourself?

I know what a responsibility that is, and I don't say that in a romantic sense. It requires presence of mind and selflessness. I don't know if I have those qualities just yet, but being a dad is something that I look forward to.

Tim and Peter shared your books to

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

PROGRAMS/SHOWTIMES EFFECTIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 LIONS for LAMBS + Trailers
2 BEOWULF
3 BEOWULF
4 THE NANNY DIARIES
5 SUPERBAD
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 30 DAYS of NIGHT
WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 Indistinct: PAIN THINGS
9 GAME PLAN
10 BOOGEYMAN 2

ERMITA

1 30 DAYS of NIGHT
2 BOOGEYMAN 2
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 LUST CAUTION
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 GAME PLAN
7 THE NANNY DIARIES
8 SUPERBAD
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 BEOWULF

METRO EAST

1 GAME PLAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 SUPERBAD
6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
7 BEOWULF
8 THE NANNY DIARIES

NOVALICHES

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 SUPERBAD

PIONEER

1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 BEOWULF

STA. ROSA

1 BEOWULF
2 GHOST SON
3 SUPERBAD
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

LIPA

1 HIGHLANDER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HALLOWEEN
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 SUPERBAD

DASMARIÑAS

1 30 DAYS of NIGHT
2 BALLS of FURY
3 SUPERBAD
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

IMUS

1 BEOWULF
2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 SUPERBAD

ANGELES

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 30 DAYS of NIGHT

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 AYAT DAPAT DARAT AYAT
3 RENDITION

STARMILLS

1 SUPERBAD
2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 UNREST
5 BALLS of FURY
6 BEOWULF

RACOLOD

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 Indistinct: NUMBALIKDIWA
4 HALLOWEEN
5 SUPERBAD
6 UNREST

ILOILO

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 HIGHLANDER
5 BALLS of FURY
6 BEOWULF

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Jake Gyllenhaal . . .

From page H7

husband." Now, you look him beside.

Peter and I are dating (laughter). I can see the headlines now. Seriously, I look up to him. If he shaves his goatee, I'll also shave mine (laughter).

Did you grow your beard for a role? Do you like wearing one?

Peter is mostly doing it for variety—he's really vain and full of himself (laughter). We all know he's a bad actor, so he needs to cover himself up. I, on the other hand, am doing it for a role in "Brothers"). But now, playing a character who spends time in jail in the first part of the movie.

It's gotten to a point of weird stares, because usually I grow my facial hair and it's shaggy. If it becomes really unkempt—that's do. I have to keep the beard for the movie even if I want to shave it!

Qualities

What qualities do you admire in Rivers...as a person and as an actress?

She can grow a mean beard, that's for sure (laughter)! I don't know if you've seen her beard—it's amazing! She's one of the best actresses of her generation—that's the thing. She's an incredible mother—she's devoted to her life and her work. But, every actor I look up to values his life over his work.

Will you comment on rumors that you are dating Reese?

No. Apparently, I am dating a lot of people, not only of the opposite sex (laughter)—it's very interesting and amusing.

The first time we interviewed you, you talked about not having enough sex—

Are you offering or what? (Laughter)

You talked freely during that interview. You have become a star since. So, has your sex life changed?

I've become an uncle—I live in a care zone. That's why I am growing a beard. I have no sex, so I'm much more interesting!

The last five years

How has your life changed in the last five years?

It hasn't changed much. But, I have gained some perspective. You can go two ways: You can buy into it, or it bridges you a little bit. For me, it nudged me into where I wanted to be.

What have you learned about women from your mother and Gaminara sister?

I grew up with a particular type of woman—both my sister and mother know what they're about in life. I respect a woman's mind. I believe that women hold much of the power and energy in the world.

My respect for every woman I meet comes from them. But, anybody can open his eyes and spend some time with a woman and see how intricate

GYLLENHAAL: "I respect a woman's mind. I believe that women hold much of the power and energy in the world."

story...sex is (laughing)!

What advice have your parents given you on how to handle relationships?

This year marks the 30th wedding anniversary of my parents. A young man comes up to my dad (Director Stephen Gyllenhaal) and asked him, "What's it like being married to the same woman for 28 years?" My dad answered, "She's not the same woman."

Very good answer.

Yes!

Good friend

Lance Armstrong (cycling champion) is a good friend of yours. And there are talks about you playing on a movie about the Tour de France.

That would be amazing! Lance and I are good friends. We have actually been on the Tour together. I rode sections of it in the Alps with Lance, which was amazing!

Did you make it?

Yes, I did (laughing). You don't ride the Alps with Lance Armstrong and not make it. The movie's not definite yet. What Damon is developing it, on JFJ's movie or this one? Nah, I would love to play Lance and make a movie about cycling, because it's my favorite sport.

You're not a Republican. Does it it like to have a friend like Lance who's a staunch Republican?

I don't discriminate. I have many friends who express different opinions. You can have some fun that way. Otherwise, you're just in a bubble!

Kitchen

In recent interviews, you talked about going into (TV chef) Mario Batali's kitchen to cook.

My best friend is a chef. The only time we could ever hang out was when I went in his kitchen, because he keeps such crazy hours! And, I do cook with Mario, occasionally.

Other than cooking and staying your best friend, what do you do for fun?

I love that rumor (laughter), it's so good. Fun is our cheese!

E-mail rcrispolin_03@yahoo.com; and read his blog, "The Impulse Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/rapolion-jent.

Toti Fuentes
inspires again in comeback show

By Rory M. Utmanac

FUENTES: Holds concert for a cause.

TOTI FUENTES fights stomach cancer with faith and music. He channels his final death following one all the time, but there are more urgent grounding me. I've been rushed to a 911 emergency as many times, and almost regularly always come to my rescue."

Toti started playing the piano at age 6 under the tutelage of Sammy Cuenco and Mary Lee Williams in Cagayan de Oro City. In 1961, he graduated at the Conservatory of Music and studied under Prof. Bernardino Custodio.

Spanish singer

Toti was discovered by Jose Juan Bolero while the Spanish singer from Barcelona was having dinner at Mia restaurant in Manila. Recently, Toti's brother sent a note to Chat Bolero asking him to allow Toti to sit in with the band for a couple of songs. After hearing the talented pianist, Bolero hired him on the spot!

Frustrated dancer

Toti's performance style involves physical gestures and facial movements. "I'm a frustrated dancer," he discloses.

In 1978, Fuentes migrated to the United States to find a new "source" of inspiration for his music. He recalls "When I first heard Stevie Wonder's music in the '70s, I prayed that someday I could play with him. When I was about 7 years old, I would stand in front of a mirror and pretend that I was conducting a symphony orchestra!"

Years later, Toti got hold of his childhood wishes. After his move to the United States, he performed with Hollywood celebrities like

TOTI on

A diario ni/by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNIELA. AVETRIA

A. LIPAK — BY JOEL ABRITA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PIN JUNIOR

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMS AND WEDGY — BY VIRA GARCIA-LAND

LOVE & MOOTE — BY ELIZABETH CHONGO

KIKE'S RACHING — BY FRANZ KIRSTEN

BOH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

ACROSS
1 Motor's cry
5 Involvement with
9 "Beetle's" sister
13 Stroke
14 Herbal drink
17 Tennis
18 "Arsenic and Old Lace" filmmaker
19 Black dominoes
20 Deep delight
21 Intermission and Lasso
23 Lingo word
24 Valentine's Valentine
26 Performer's engagements
27 Pen part
28 Martini mixer
32 Progressing gradually
34 Tennis doubles?
36 Manner setting
39 Members of the fam.
40 Dangers
41 Summon in Texas
42 Make sudden, unwelcome advances?
43 Gardner, Bardot's director
47 Hopkins and Ahmad
51 High gear
52 Memory unit
53 Kind dog
54 "Nice feeling!"
55 Lofty's
56 Do cobbling
59 Short, pointed remarks
60 Newsman Harry
64 Number of dozen
65 Go spring
66 Lewdness
67 Mrs. Wooden with Wilt

DOWN
1 Wide-sweep knitted
2 Heart of a recovery
3 Studying intently
4 Dundee gave
5 Foster father
6 Word on edge
7 Program list
8 Lose air
9 Ingrid Bergman's
10 Tiered tent-up tents
11 Wild, in Lille
12 Dance for a club
13 Audition form or bill
14 Banking bureau
15 Kapoor's pre-
16 Tiny tidbit
17 Prepare to go around
18 Cairns, CA.
19 Outings
21 Defense, and Access
22 Lacking
25 Ms. Peron
29 Gem homegrowns in
30 Rubaiyat singer

31 Rainy-day savings
33 Solo shade
35 Lardner classic
44 Marceau's country
45 Machine of sorts
46 Locating a key
48 Grow
50 Raise a garden
51 Opportunity
54 Art patron of Florence
56 Dollar's need
57 Work
58 Former queen of Spain

No. 0107 (Sunday)
Solvers: 94

Today's Puzzle Solved

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a romantic. You bring together opposing ideas, people and events. You are the glue that makes it happen. People in any line of work that requires bringing harmony to conflict will do well with you naturally. You need your home to be immaculate, serene and comfortable. You have very little to share. You pick detailed fights on petty issues.

Birthdate of: Bette Davison, director Danny DeVito, actor Lorne Michaels, producer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good week for you to work with others on a project. You may have differences with others about politics, religion or different ways of doing things. You're also interested in how to succeed in business.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): People in your life are pushing you to do more work. You could bring your talents, gifts, goodness or kindness to a job that is in desperate need of your skills.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You will need to be careful with your words this week. You may be inclined to say something that is hurtful as a result of some stimulating conversations or discussions. Talk to people from different backgrounds and different cultures. Learn something new.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Clarify what someone else's intentions are immediately. The sooner you do, the sooner you can relax. Don't be impressed by those who are trying to impress you. Don't be pressured into doing something you don't want to do just because someone else is doing it around the week (before).

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today the others around you will be more than willing to help you. Take chances that you have to go back into hallways and do things with others. Invite your friends and partners to a dance very soon(ish).

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Employers and other people in authority or colleagues can be unsupportive today. Don't rely on your boss completely. The advice of your friends or group activity can be helpful this week.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good week for you to work with others. You will be more successful if you work in creative partnerships. Be open to creative ideas from different backgrounds. Be a team player.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Any kind of group gathering at this time is good. Make an effort to get together with all of family members and be involved and productive in the group. Be open to creative ideas from different backgrounds. Be a team player.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You may receive some good news about money in your today. You'll have to learn to work as a team to reach. Similarly, other people want to listen to you or tell you some things!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to discuss business and more. Be open to creative ideas from others about how to improve things. Be open to creative ideas from others about how to improve things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All issues are best to others ahead of their time. Don't be surprised. It's the head-long who has the universal view. Be open to new ideas. Be open to new ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Work between the people in your life will be more productive. Decide could be required to do.

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Clemo

		5						
	7		5			3	2	
	8		2					4
			3		6	4	5	
	1	6	8		9			
3					7		1	
	5	4			1		7	
						6		

Difficulty Level: ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	9	6	3	5	1	7	8	4
1	7	5	8	9	4	6	2	3
9	3	4	7	6	2	5	8	1
4	1	7	5	2	6	8	3	9
5	6	2	4	8	9	1	7	3
8	9	3	1	3	7	4	6	2
6	5	1	9	7	3	2	4	8
7	2	3	6	4	8	9	1	5
8	4	9	2	1	5	3	7	6

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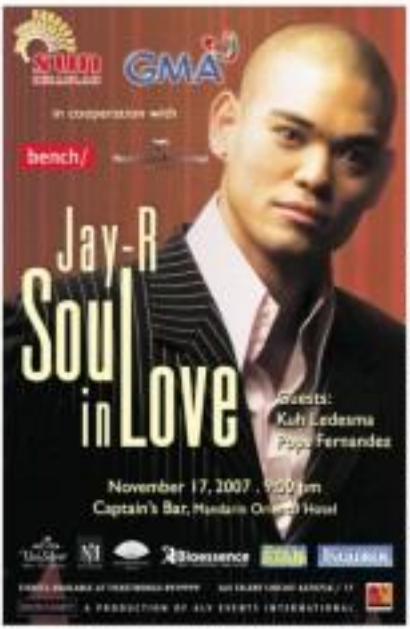

Apes make unlikely screen heroes

"KING KONG." The iconic ape creature with arms outstretched is shown in his primeval environment.

By Bebs Cervantes

A BABY DESTINED TO BE KING Creepsuller survives a plane crash in the African wilderness and is raised by apes. Eventually he acquires almost dexterity and courage and becomes Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle, before he interacts with human beings again.

The Ape Man enjoys the best of both worlds. When Hollywood adapted his adventures to the big screen, his story led to a highly profitable series exploited by a string of he men.

One of the most successful actors to play Tarzan was Olympic swimming champ Johnny Weissmuller, who presented fans with exciting swimming and swinging scenes, and the best jungle yell of all—the Tarzan who—came after him, the late Barker, Gordon Scott, Jock Mahoney and Ron Ely, had to "copy" his yell!

Mischievous monkey

In the story, Tarzan is joined by Jane, who teaches him English while instructing him on how to properly conduct himself as a Lord. Soon, they are joined by a kid, appropriately characterized Boy, and a clever but mischievous monkey named Cheetah.

Cheetah proved to appealing that, in time, producers thought of creating a giant ape called King Kong. However, while Cheetah was an annoying little comic imp, King Kong was a tragic figure out of sync with time and progress.

The giant ape is captured in his natural abode and made a laughable exhibit by profit-motivated human beings. Only a blonde beauty draws him sympathy and understanding.

To nobody's surprise, the movie about a ape with a vulnerable heart is soon smitten by the beautiful maiden. The villains turn out to be the scrupulous humans who intrude upon King Kong's quiet effort

"FRIGHT" JOB YOUNG." Starred Charles Thorson in its 1998 incarnation.

to protect his beloved from primitive existence.

Kong meets his doom when he is shot off the top of the Empire State Building, a symbol of man's technological progress. This simple story, spiced with love, action and adventure, captured viewers' imaginations. To this day, Sky Way is remembered as King's first captive damsel.

Big-budget spectacles

Indeed, apes make endlessly screen heroes. King Kong was so appealing that new versions were again produced recently. These remakes were big-budget spectacles that updated the story's theme for today's audiences. Kong proved so appealing that another ape named Joe Young soon created for the silver screen.

"Mighty Joe Young" likewise chronicles the ape's capture and his cruel transfer to the big city. Like Kong, Joe falls in love with a girl, played in the 1949 version by an infant, Terry Moore. Interestingly, the movie was also directed by Ernest B. Schoedsack, who helmed the original "King Kong."

The story of Joe Young was revised in 1998, starring Charlize Theron, who, soon after, won a third Actress Oscar for her performances in the film, "Monster."

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BEOWULF
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ROBIN WRIGHT PENN
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WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Film fest showcases local animators

By Bea Arevalo

AFIC Regan and Ricky Orallana of the Animation Council of the Philippines Inc.

THE ANIMATION Council of the Philippines (ACPI) is cooking up an exciting, all Filipino competition and showcase for short animated shorts in the upcoming "Animahenasyon 2007 Pinoy Animation Festival" from Nov. 23 to 27 at Robinsons Galleria's basement.

We have many success stories of Filipino animation artists making it big in Hollywood studios like Pixar, Dreamworks and Disney. We sat down with ACPI creative director Ricky Regan and festival director Ricky Orallana to talk about their exciting project.

Creative outlet

Regan observes: "Filipinos are skilled, so at some point, they look for a creative outlet. When you consume projects, you merely follow what's asked of you. We want to encourage animators to have a say in the development of a concept or story to enhance and preserve their creativity—that's why 'Animahenasyon' is an all Filipino festival."

"This is the Olympics of Pinoy animation," Orallana agrees. "This is the only local competition organized especially for animators. Since I attended Isabela's Animation Summer Workshop, I was able to observe the nitty-gritty details of organizing a festival. We hope 'Animahenasyon' becomes successful!"

The Annecy International Animated Film Festival (Festival du Film d'Animation de Annecy) and the Hiroshima International Animation Film Festival are two of the world's havens for animators to showcase their works.

In 1998, my short film was invited for exhibition in Hiroshima. It was interesting to watch only animated films for one week. And the highlight for filmmakers was not the screening of our films, but the hours that developed among animators and filmmakers.

The Japanese audiences were so hospitable that they brought us on a cruise with international animators, and organized a beach party with stop-motion animation pioneer, Ray Harryhausen, in attendance.

"Animahenasyon," aside from film screenings, there will be a two-day conference in which successful Filipino animators like Pixar's Ronnie del Carmen will talk about story development and animation production.

The festival received more than 150 entries from all over the country. Call 438-2981 loc. 150 or 151, or e-mail animationcouncil@gmail.com.

Promising entries

Promising entries from Iloilo, young talents include Kristian "Tinge" Bebanco's "Red Balloon," Benny Lyn Ito's "Ulan," Ramon del Prado's "I Am the Superhero," Nelson "Ding" Caligan Jr.'s "Bahay Hantik" and Joel Capillo "Mahiwa."

Moreover, the works of veteran animators like Rodeo's "Jeff Tam," Ellen Santos' "Ito Si Isabo Con Viola," and Ami Mendoza's "Starry Cheeks" will also be featured.

Toti Fuentes . . .

From page H2

Andy Williams, Le Trys Jackson, Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin, the Platters and the Lettermen.

Toti performed with Anna Fuji in the annual, "Barbed Hair" at Metro Bar Bistro in Greenbelt last Nov. 15, and in "The Sound of Sonny" at Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar on Nov. 22. It was Toti who introduced the early-haired songstress as a solo artist on Manila radio.

Fuji has since made a name for herself in the islands scene. She recently finished her year long stint playing the coveted role of Nalani, "The Lion King" at Disneyland Hong Kong.

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

Insight, instinct drive *chemistry-fueled romantic drama*

By Rica R. Bolo

"One More Chance"
R-Cathy Garcia-Molina
© John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay and Bojo Molina

IN CATHY GARCIA-MOLINA'S LATEST film, "One More Chance," the filmmaker examines romantic relationships with far less wrong, pleasing frills than are usual in that Cinema's rom-com rebellion. In a result, she induces the John Lloyd Cruz-Bea Alonzo starrer with a deeper and more serious perspective.

For the most part, Molina succeeds in discussing the unusual love story of Popoy (Cruz), and Basha (Alonzo), lovers who find themselves drifting apart after five years. Interestingly, the lovers don't really fall out of love—they merely find themselves unable to cope with the changes that come with adulthood and maturity.

As Basha struggles to understand the growing resentment she feels for Popoy's busy demeanor, the latter tightens his domineering hold over his lifestyle, unconvinced girlfriend as he begins to contemplate a life of wedded bliss.

Basha eventually finds her own voice—a successful career, artistic growth, financial security, etc.—after she gathers enough courage to break up with Popoy who fails apart when she breaks the news to him.

But, when Basha sees Popoy with his new girlfriend, Tasha (Maja Salvador), she realizes that she still loves him! What's a girl to do to make amends?

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OPENS NOVEMBER 21

Goldie Hawn supports programs promoting culture, human rights

NEW YORK—GOLDIE HAWN recently expressed support for two film programs aimed at showcasing amateur and professional films as a way to promote cultural understanding and uphold human rights.

The Academy Award winner met with organizers of Pangea Day, a one-day event which is named after what scientists believe was the giant land mass that encompassed all of today's continents.

HAPPY. Warm to help children deal with stress.

Positive change

Organizers of the program, scheduled for May 10 next year, will present amateur and professional films in an effort that they hope will "encourage humanity and catalyze positive change."

"This extends together commonality—it brings together something in a deeply polarized world," Hawn said in an interview with the Associated Press. She said she was drawn to Pangea Day "because everyone has a story, and film is a very emotional medium" to tell it.

Plans for the program include linking screening venues in New York, Cairo, London, Ramallah, Rio de Janeiro, Tel Aviv, Juba and Rwanda, for television and Internet broadcasts.

"Watching in Juba, you hear that the goal is to tell persecuted stories," Hawn shared. She noted that the project allows to appealed to her because of the power of filmmaking, which gives others a forum in which they can relay their stories and possibly touch lives.

Pangea Day was created by documentary filmmaker Jasmine Neuajime, after she won the TED Prize that provided $1 million and access to top thinkers in technology, entertainment and the arts to aid projects with global ambitions.

Award

The award, whose winners include former President Bill Clinton and Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson, grants recipients one wish to change the world.

Neuajime, who founded Pangea Day, is best known as director of "Control Room," a film which went behind the scenes at the pan-Arab satellite channel, al-Jazeera—an independent station that has garnered both strong praise and criticism for its coverage of events in the Middle East.

Along with Hawn, others who have thrown support behind the project include Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who—known as an appointment to break the ongoing associations people have with the 1994 Rwandan genocide, Pangea organizers disclosed.

Hawn, who won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in the 1969 movie, "Cactus Flower," said that plans were on hold for a movie that would have centered filmed in India.

She said "Palace in Ashes," a movie she wrote about a New Yorker who travels to India to bury her husband's ashes, was "still being financed," and that school had not yet been signed.

Curriculum

But, she said she remains busy with her other projects, including her work for The Hawn Foundation, which uses research to its results, fills a curriculum, and pilot programs to help children understand their own thoughts and feelings, and respond in healthy and responsible ways.

"One of the problems children have today is stress," Hawn said. "I see down and wondered: 'What can we do?'" AP

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"INCIPIENT IN BUTUAN." One of Nacionero's photographs for her "Earth" series.

'Art of Life'

FIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS, RECIPIENTS OF the Panasonic Lumix digital camera with Leica lens, are involved in Panasonic Philippines' "Art of Life" photo exhibit, currently on view at the second floor of the Lifé Design Plaza, 210 Rizmont Garcia st., Bel-Air II, Makati City. The three-year recital Nov. 20.

Sir two days, Brig Tyrone shot to a flower shop to capture "Tribute" on roses and came up with Hallmark-type images "Mural" was the subject assigned to Jeanne Young, who, like me, is a graduate of Advertising Photography at Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California. She also came up with dazzling photos.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navarrete

He has just, Rudy Paredes worked with low-intensity lighting, to capture "Win." He photographed first-working performances, lighted candles to birthday cakes, and windows.

Subject matter

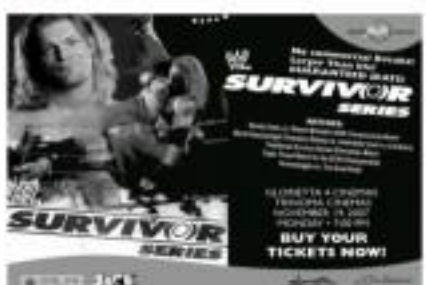
Travel photographer George Tapan captured stunning scenes—a wooded bridge, near Alfred town on a mountain, etc.—in Abra, and other places in the country for his subject matter, "Wood."

I tackled "Earth" in pictures culled from commissioned works that brought me to a rice field in Bataan, the Libas river in the northern part of Cebu, and in Batanes' Boulder Beach and its volcanic andesite stones.

The LRI Design Plaza's "Cabs and Connoisseurs Sale" includes more 36 participating stores. Call 895-5478 to 895-1771.

* * *

Get Season Photo Sale! is giving a 0% 360 discount for trips scheduled from January to May next year if you register between Nov. 16 to 30. Email us at manila@seasonsphotos.com, or visit www.seasonsphotos.com.



Insight . . .

From page 9

The movie initially falters by taking an unconventional expositional style that was found more than it clarifies—it collides a cheeky, comedic style to introduce the story's dual narrators, Grace Perpetuo and Amber O.

Unfortunately, the storytelling lack then becomes protracted and some leads improvised and self-indulgent. Moreover, for a Star Cinema production, the film's photography is surprisingly not as polished.

However, what Avalos finally decides to take first and foremost seriously, we see the subject-coated dimensional insight that is initially clustered by her attempt to use wit and the exquisite sight gags to generate humor and light-hearted fun.

The production's best assets are its leads and its talented supporting cast. It's not hard to be drawn to Cruz and Alonzo's characters because the talented pair doesn't just go through the motions—they really go for the Gangsi Jugular! You see the consistency of the characters' respective journeys, so choosing a role doesn't come seriously for the engaged viewers After all, isn't life a series of hard decisions and ambiguous choices?

Cruz knows how to make viewers sympathize with him, but so does the lovely Alonzo, who looks lovelier without the unnecessary glam. The underutilized chemistry dramatic internet and riveting fuel Mallow's intelligent romantic drama. Giving Cruz and Alonzo ample support are Derek Ramsay and Dimples Romana, who come up with show-top performances as Popoy and Bashi's friends and confidantes.

There is, however, one lovely actress who almost runs away with the movie: Mojicha Valdez, who uses every second of her limited screen time to provide the necessary comfier between the two leading characters. Her break-up scene (with Cruz) simultaneously showcases her natural depth and intelligence—an award-worthy head-turning reading item, indeed! We can't wait to see her in more challenging roles!

With Cruz, Alonzo and Salvador's help, Mallow's film deftly examines the anatomy and psychology of a break-up and reminds viewers that past-and failure are sometimes integral to growing up. As Ramsay's character advises, "it takes grown-ups to make relationships work!"

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Tita Muñoz's luminous artistry continues to inspire younger thespians

By Nestor U. Torre

BORN: AUG. 14, 1925, TITA Muñoz grew up into a beautiful, sensitive and talented young woman who made a name for herself in various capacities in the performing arts and media.

Her exceptional beauty was complimented by a distinctive speaking voice and an artistic intelligence that enabled her to excel in different fields.

Radio announcer

She started in entertainment as a radio announcer on dzBB. She did so well that she was quickly promoted to production manager of dzBC, then dzAQ—the first woman in Manila to hold the post.

She also pioneered in television as one of the then new medium's first writers, producers and program hosts, on dzAQ-TV. Eventually she became the production manager of the first government TV station, Channel 10.

But, it was in the field of acting that Tita truly came into her own, to the chronic but luminous and insightful performances in plays like "The Cocktail Party," "Suddenly Last Summer," "Lysistrata," "Story

THE THEATER icon was also a pioneering radio-TV talent.

THE FIRST mouth of the lovely actress (above and below).

Strong Numbers," "Skin of Our Teeth," "The Blood of God," and works by Shakespeare made her the toast of the town.

National Artist Rolando Tinio regarded Tita as his artistic muse, and directed her in a number of memorable productions, including two plays that he wrote for her, "Claudia and Her Mother," and "Bet April, What Are We Doing Here?"

Outstanding work

Tita also did outstanding work as a film actress, starring in memorable films like "Flight of the Sparrow" and "Run with the Devil," as well as appearing in some international productions.

In Filipino films, her notable portrayals were in movies like "Uhaw," "Handuman," "Pahiram ng Isang Umaga," "Modesta," "Bituing Pag-ibig," "Katot Mula Ka Sa Ate" and "Trese."

Tita was even busier on television, where her frequent portrayals on the acclaimed anthology drama, "Initiation," were deeply appreciated by viewers. She also performed in TV series like "Historia Militi" and "Inicia Kaya Na Nga."

Portrayals

In all of her theater, TV and film portrayals, Tita set the highest thespic standards, prompting the best direction to cast her in their productions aside from Rolando Tinio, they included National Artists Gerardo de Leon, Lamberto V. Avellana, Lino Brocka and Eddie Romero.

Now in her 80s, Tita Muñoz continues to inspire younger thespians with the celebrated excellence of her many multimedia portrayals, but abiding love for the performing arts—and her boundless artistry!

TITA (left, with her family) was a beauty even as a young girl.

Timberlake helps Duran Duran get 'sexy back'

NEW YORK—MORE THAN 25 years after the release of its first album, '80s pop group Duran Duran, is still learning new tricks—this time, from US hip-hop mogul, Timbaland, and pop sensation, Justin Timberlake.

Melvin LaBon, Nick Rhodes, John Taylor and Roger Taylor joined forces with the US duet for their 13th album, "Red Carpet Massacre."

"What they taught us was that you had to be quick, and that first ideas are often the best ones. We have made quite a few albums that were thought-out, intensive processes," drummer Roger Taylor told Reuters.

First single

Former Mouseketeer Timberlake produced and sang on the first single, "Falling Down," while Timothy "Timbaland" Mosley produced and featured on three tracks. Another eight songs were produced by Duran Duran and Anto "Magic" Hills, who also worked with Britney Spears on her latest album.

"It's a real collaboration. We haven't really worked with that many artists before," said keyboardist Rhodes. Lead singer Simon LeBon said the band—with each member in his 40s, and with more than 60 million albums sold—is always looking ahead. He says that the group is never short on new music.

"We tend to look at other artists who are making great records now, of which Timbaland and Justin Timberlake have been at the forefront over the past few years," he insisted. "As soon as we got the opportunity to work with them, it was like 'Yes, who wouldn't?'"

Not only has Duran Duran been taking cues, to say, Timberlake—who was born the same year the boys of Duran Duran released their first album—says a fulfilment in view of "Falling Down." "Duran Duran has remained relevant enough to embrace any sounds they've thought that we had going on contemporaries the band into an object of ridicule," it added.

Versatility

Thankfully, "falling" denotes certain compelling versatility from Timberlake. The song is true to Duran Duran's beloved melodic footprint, demonstrating that Timberlake is the one who's learning new tricks here," Billboard added.

Reuters magazine chose that the album as Duran Duran getting its "sexy back" in a play on the title of one of Timberlake's hit singles.

The group initially recorded as an album titled "Reportage" as a follow-up to 2004's "Astronaut," which was the first album by all the original members—the reunion quintet plus Andy Taylor—since 1990.

Relationship

Taylor again decided to leave the band last year. LeBon jokingly described the split as "Sticky Hell"; while Rhodes more diplomatically explained: "We drifted apart. It was very comfortable that didn't work anymore. He wanted something different."

Taylor's departure incited not in he a tumultuous working with Timbaland, Timberlake and "Bills that led to recording a new album, which the band said was also heavily influenced by "the tempo of modern life."

But, older fans need not worry about the new collaborators. Rhodes reiterated, "It's very much a Duran Duran album!" Reuters

SUN CELLULAR SPONSORS AXN'S 'AMAZING RACE ASIA 2'

Sun Cellular joined AXN in the Amazing Race Hot Challenge held recently in Trinoma Mall as part of the promotional activities for Season 2 of "The Amazing Race Asia." Shown in photo are (from left) Errol Reed, Fredan Arrieta-Lee and Jun Thayan of Team Sun Cellular; Angie Hirsch, marketing manager of Sony Pictures Entertainment Networks Asia; Jojo Benitez, senior marketing manager of Sun; and Honey Reed. The Reeds formed one of the two teams from the Philippines who took part in "The Amazing Race Asia 2."

Stephen Zenaja Abbie Joshua Casio

Where to Stop Where to Go

A handy directory of the country's best establishments

A Thanksgiving holiday at Holiday Inn

WHAT IS THANKSGIVING AND WHY DOES Susan Parker always seem to be the highlight of a Thanksgiving dinner? Thanksgiving Day originated from a celebration held by the English Pilgrims who moved to the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts for a bountiful harvest after a grueling journey from their home country, Switzerland. Thanksgiving has evolved to be the second most important family celebration in America, next to Christmas, of course. Though there is no establishment date for tradition of serving turkey for Thanksgiving Dinner originated from the Pilgrim's first thanksgiving, there were some references mentioning wild turkeys or of "four men out hunting" returning with turkeys, ducks and geese. Money or no money, turkey is the main course as a presumed symbol of Thanksgiving, celebrations worldwide.

This year, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila will help you avoid the dreaded task of preparing turkey for your Thanksgiving dinner at home. Instead of the turkey, cranberry sauce, a choice of traditional or special stuffing and a new dish or never possessed will grace the carving stations of its buffet restaurant, Isla Celebrate a Turkey Inn-ed Dinner with your loved ones at the very affordable buffet price of P750 ++ per person.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, Fish offers a fabulously diverse menu at an equally delicious price. Menus at Fish include extensive chicken, lamb and beef spare ribs, char-grilled beef, pork, chicken and selected seafoods and skewered vegetables. Mongolian and Thai Sti dishes with a choice of sauces and accompaniments, and a special feature of authentic preparations like Indo-Sate, tropical fruit Jasmine, hot chocolate with native desserts or simple Sagot's Delicacies in Bake Shell.

Fish is located at the driveway of Holiday Inn Galleria Manila in Ortigas. It is also easily accessible through the hotel's 6th level entrance from Meralco Avenue in Pasig. For inquiries and reservations, call 633-7333.

Relax, it's Thanksgiving at Holiday Inn.

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For inquiries contact Courtyard Inn at (047)252-2300, Sun Cell no.: 0922.682.6734; e-mail: courtyard@subicwd.com. For Courtyard Inn's upcoming bookings and discounts, contact sales department or refer the no.: (047)252-2067.

Pre-Christmas Charity Bazaar '07 at CSB

THE CSB HOTEL IN CLUB CORDILLERA with the Dr. La Salle College of Saint Benilde School of Hotel & Restaurant and Tourism Management will be hosting a Pre-Christmas Charity Bazaar on Nov. 17-18, in front of the Angelo King Building in Antiliano Ave. corner Estrada St. in Makati, starting from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The bazaar in cooperation with the Holy Trinity Parish Church in Estrada Street has for its objective to extend educational assistance to the underprivileged children through this annual event.

Shoppers can enjoy a range of imported and local products to include electronics, clothes, shoes, bags, various gift items, accessories and many more to choose from. The bazaar will also showcase a variety of scrumptious food products for the hungry stomach.

For further details and inquiries please contact the events marketing committee at 498-2233 local 582, 583 and 612, Monday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and look for Alan, Bern, Ann, Catalin, Arnaiz or Philip.

INDIGENT KIDS CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN AT DISCOVERY SUITES

Children from Nayon ng Kabataan were treated to a fun-filled day at special guests at Discovery Suites' 'Reunited' Halloween Party recently. Nayong Kabataan (The Village for the Youth) is the National Center for orphaned, neglected, abused, abandoned, and rejected children under the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Built in 1988, the facility seeks to care, rehabilitate and protect children with the end goal of re-integrating them to their families and communities. The Village provides a comprehensive package of social services which includes home-like services, training on productivity skills, medical, health and educational services, legal services to clients and their families as necessary. Wards of Nayong ng Kabataan, shown in photo with Discovery Suites General manager Bobby Henrique were accorded VIP privileges and had full access to all of the hotel's Halloween activities like face painting, a scrapbook branch, parlor games, and Halloween gift packs from sponsors. They also enjoyed their own room for the Halloween Party with Lorenzo's Way, courtesy of Viva Video, Country Style, Paramount Bizgem for Kids, Jack n' Jill, Monito, Monik, Star Pearls, Star Pops, Magnolia and Jollycos.

THE MALAYAN PLAZA'S ROOM PACKAGES

And of the Malayan Plaza's (located at the heart of the Ortigas Commercial District), local-weekend packages exclusive for local residents and foreigners with ACR or Alien Certificate of Registration, effective November 01, 31. Suite categories include overnight accommodations or studio superior and deluxe at P1,400.00 and P1,100.00 (P1,890.00 and P1,590.00 for the non-inclusive superior and deluxe rooms respectively) and P1,700.00 for a overnight stay at the two bedroom superior. Still for only this month is the Suite/Executive deals. For an overnight accommodation at a one-bedroom deluxe unit at a package rate of P3,000 ++, enjoy the comforts of one of the country's most excellent serviced residences. Rates are valid for local residents and foreigners with ACR only until Nov. 30, and are subject to 10 percent service charge and prevailing government taxes. For more information, contact The Malayan Plaza at (632)706-8000, e-mail sales@theamericanhotel.com.ph or visit our website www.themalayanplaza.com.

Trapezz November happenings

TRAPEZZ IS UNDERBEAT IS the place to be this November, as one of the hottest bars in Manila will feature the country's top local acts – and more – for the entire month. Musicians from different genres will take the stage from Mondays to Saturdays. Monday means Acoustic Night, with Five Vibes providing a trendy stream of acoustic guitar-driven melodies. Tuesday is Ladies' Night, with Feel Circle playing mellow romantic pop music. Everyone can look for hard to Wonder Night on every Wednesday, when four popular bands will perform. Thirsty will also be opened up to the public free of charge. On Thursdays, Dispatch with the Senses Gagan will play for the people, to open the doors every Friday, which is Double Band Night, as Major Impact and Crossword will play a variety of retro music. Aside from the regular featured acts, Trapezz will also play host to special guests this November. On Nov. 23 the main dining room will be closed from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. to make way for a company entertainment, but Major Impact will perform at 10 onwards. Music fans shouldn't miss Finders Keepers on Nov. 25, when Filipino musicians will cover songs by the greatest music icons in history, aside from offering great music, Trapezz Underbeat is a unique luxury concoction based on a variety of cuisines, including Chinese, Thai, French, Spanish, American, and of course, Filipino. The restaurant bar, which can accommodate up to 150 people, is open four hours on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next day.

Legend Villas Yuletide treat

GRANDMA'S Chocolate Cake

CHRISTMAS IS THE FEAST place is traditionally observed the longest, and this early it's not uncommon to hear Christmas carols and see the season's ornaments and lanterns adorn even the most humble of dwellings.

Shopping malls and shops as well as hotels and restaurants are also not far behind, very much set for the season. They entice customers to shop offering various merchandise for presents to family, friends, colleagues and loved ones.

The Legend Villas' Luis Maria Gothenburg chose to bring good warmth and cheer this season of giving with parties and traditional delicacies which would surely bring delight to everyone's heart.

On the holiday table can consume soft, lemon squares, cinnamon and cakes. The cakes come in various flavors, all of which are all-time favorites: chocolate, mint, chocolate, cheese or the classic choice.

Michael Leonardo, newly appointed sous chef of the Legend Villas shares the hotel has been known for serving traditional Filipino cuisine in its menu be it dinners in the buffet or shop or in buffet meals in its restaurant. This Christmas, Legend Villas helps make the festivities complete as these delicacies are usually the ones everybody looks forward to.

These skilfully executed delicacies and excellently delicious cakes come in handy and can be taken home or to the office. It can also be a welcome present anybody can give. For inquiries or reservations, visit Legend Villas' Luis Maria Gothenburg at 54 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City or call 633-1501 to 10.